



Periodontal Scaling and Root Planning

Post-Op Instructions

These instructions will guide you through the first few days of recovery.

All patients heal differently - listen to your body. If something hurts, do not do it!

Scaling and Root Planning (SRP) can be a necessary procedure in order to resolve periodontal disease and inflammation. Most patients experience little or no postoperative discomfort. The most frequent complaints are slight tenderness of the gums and tooth sensitivity to cold drinks and foods. Here are some helpful reminders.

1. Be careful eating while you are numb. Hot foods and drinks – such as soup, pizza, coffee and tea – can seriously burn your mouth. Also, it is easy to bite your tongue and lip while numb.
2. Use warm saltwater rinses (1 tsp. salt per 8 oz. of water several times per day for up to one week). This is soothing and promotes faster healing.
3. Take an anti-inflammatory pain reliever, if needed. In most cases, ibuprofen 400mg (Advil) will be enough to control discomfort.
4. It is imperative that you floss and brush daily. Brushing and flossing daily helps to remove plaque and debris from between your teeth. This is crucial in fighting periodontal disease.
5. Refrain from smoking for 24-48 hours after the procedure to ensure healthy healing of gum tissues.
6. In the healing phase after the completion of SRP, the gums will ideally begin to tighten, shrinking the periodontal pockets. Swelling, redness and inflammation will also resolve. As things heal, this tissue tightening/ healing may expose more of your tooth roots than you are accustomed to seeing. This is normal.

Sensitivity

Tooth sensitivity is common after treatment and usually resolves within 1-2 weeks.

- Avoid ice cold drinks and foods while teeth are sensitive.
- Brushing two to three times daily with sensitivity toothpaste will reduce cold sensitivity. Try using Crest for Sensitive Teeth® or Sensodyne®.
- Fluoride rinses like Act® may reduce sensitivity and fight cavities.
- In rare instances, cold sensitivity may persist.