



MIDDLE GEORGIA  
**ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL  
SURGERY**

## Post-Operative Instructions Following Tooth Exposure

An impacted tooth simply means that it is stuck under the gum and/or bone and cannot erupt into function. The cuspid (canine) tooth is a critical tooth in the dental arch and plays an important role in your bite. Commonly, the cuspid tooth, or any other tooth for that matter, may fail to erupt through the gum tissue in a normal, timely fashion. This procedure usually involves removal of gum or bony tissue and placement of a special brace or bracket to aid in the eruption of these teeth in conjunction with orthodontic therapy.

In addition to following our general oral surgical care instructions, please note:

- If rubber packing was placed (pink Perio pack), leave it alone. This packing will help to keep the gum tissue from re-growing over the tooth keeping it exposed. If it gets dislodged or if pieces begin to crumble off, do not be alarmed. We will remove it at your post-operative visit.
- Sometimes a small wire is used to temporarily hold back the chain attached to the orthodontic bracket on the impacted tooth. If the wire becomes loose or is scratchy or uncomfortable against your lip or inner cheek, place a small ball of orthodontic wax over it for comfort until your next visit.
- Plan to see Dr. Smalley one week after surgery and then your orthodontist shortly thereafter.
- It may take several months for an impacted tooth to be brought into its “normal position” in the dental arch. It is important to maintain good hygiene around these teeth and the orthodontic appliance attached to it. After one week, a WaterPik® or small syringe may be helpful to maintain good hygiene.

Please call our office (478-353-3053) with any questions.