

Use of the irrigating syringe

The removal of a tooth results in a bony defect called a 'socket.' The socket will gradually tend to fill from the bottom up with new bone. This process may take several weeks. In the meantime, food debris often becomes trapped and may cause discomfort or delayed healing. Gently rinsing with warm salt water on **days 2 through 4** following surgery will help to keep the socket clean.

On the 5th postoperative day, we recommend use of an irrigating syringe. To use:

- Draw up warm tap water into the syringe.
- Position the tip of the syringe directly in the socket as far as it will go.
- Using finger or thumb, apply pressure to the syringe to forcefully irrigate the socket.
- Move the tip around to irrigate the entire area.

This procedure should be performed twice per day until the socket no longer traps food. Patients may need to use the syringe for up to 6 weeks.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

DO NOT USE THE SYRINGE UNTIL THE 5TH DAY FOLLOWING SURGERY.