If you are having minor complications after surgery or have questions, please call the office during business hours:

**Office: (912) 355-2688**

**Office Manager Email: beth@savperio.com**

If you are having serious complications after surgery or problems with medications prescribed after your surgery, you are welcome to call or text Dr. Gustin on his cell phone. Please leave a detailed message if there is no answer.

**Cell Phone: (912) 604-0441**

**Email: wgustin@savperio.com**

**Serious complications include:**

* Bleeding that will not stop after 15 minutes of firm pressure
* Severe pain that prevents you from sleeping or working
* Nausea/vomiting caused by the pain medications, antibiotics or other medications that were prescribed
* Allergic reactions to medications or products used in your surgery
* Painful swelling that is unusual in size
* Persistent fever, especially while on antibiotics

**Please only call or text Dr. Gustin’s cell phone for emergencies. To reschedule appointments, please make sure to call the office phone number.**

***If you are having life-threatening symptoms such as anaphylaxis, trouble breathing, severe swelling of the throat preventing breathing, etc. call 9-1-1 immediately.***

Laser Surgery

Post-Operative

Instructions

***In order for surgery areas to heal properly, it is important to carefully follow these instructions. Once you’ve read through, please call or email the office if you still have questions. Contact information is listed on the reverse side.***

***During your surgery, the diseased layer of gum tissue was removed, the roots were thoroughly cleaned and a blood clot formed around the teeth. These blood clots form a protective seal around the teeth like a scab and should be left in place as long as possible. They will usually turn white and then disappear after several days. To prevent complications and ensure good results after surgery, please read and follow the instructions below.***

Do:

* **Take all of your medications as prescribed**: Antibiotics, a mouth rinse and pain medications are prescribed to help prevent infection and keep you comfortable after surgery. If you have side effects such as nausea, vomiting, or hives, discontinue and call Dr. Gustin immediately. Do not drive or work while you are taking narcotic pain medication.
* **Ice your face**: 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off during the 1st 24 hours after surgery. This is often the most helpful thing you can do to prevent painful swelling and bruising. You may use an ice pack, zip-lock bags with ice, or a frozen bag of peas. Make sure to have a protective layer between your skin and the ice, such as a washcloth or paper towel.
* **Avoid the surgical area** until tenderness subsides, usually 2-3 days. Gradually resume normal diet and cleansing of your teeth as tenderness allows. Wait until your first post surgery appointment to resume flossing of the treated area(s).
* **Contact the office or Dr**. **Gustin if your teeth hurt when you close them together:** During the surgery, your bite was adjusted to lighten the biting force between the opposing teeth. If your teeth hurt when they touch together, it could mean that they need further adjustment. Lightening the biting force between the teeth not only keeps you comfortable during the initial healing period, but also reduces tooth mobility.
* **Place gentle pressure on the gum tissue if the surgery site starts to bleed**: Most bleeding complications are caused by not icing or chewing on the side that had surgery. If this occurs, apply very gentle pressure with a finger-tip for approximately 10-15 minutes. If bleeding persists call Dr. Gustin immediately, especially if you are on blood thinners.
* **Restrict physical activity**: Avoid strenuous activity for at least 24 hours after the surgery to reduce bleeding complications. Even bending over to lift something or tie your shoes can increase pressure enough to cause bleeding.
* **Rest!** You will heal faster and feel better if you allow yourself time to rest. When resting and sleeping, prop your head up slightly with pillows to decrease bleeding, bruising and swelling.

Don’t:

* **DON’T drink though a straw for 7 days:** This could cause the site to bleed or dislodge the protective blood clot that needs to remain around the teeth. If you are drinking cold liquids, some sensitivity is a normal side effect of the surgery and is usually temporary.
* **DON’T be alarmed with any changes in color:** Gum tissues can be gray, red, blue, purple, or “stringy”, which reflect a normal response to laser treatments.
* **DON’T eat the following foods:** Citrus, spicy foods, alcohol, salt. As a general rule, don’t eat anything that you wouldn’t want to come into contact with a paper-cut on your finger!