



Making Smart Dental Choices

Managing Dental Pain Safely

Some patients experience pain after certain dental procedures. Your dentist may prescribe medication to help you manage your pain.

Certain types of medication, called opioids, have a high potential for misuse or abuse that could lead to addiction. That's why it's important to understand why your dentist has prescribed medication for you, how and when to take it, and what you can do to keep yourself and your family members safe.

Here are some tips for managing dental pain safely:

- **Talk to your dentist.** If your dentist prescribes an opioid medication, ask if you can try a non-opioid alternative, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, first. Be sure to let your dentist know about any current or past drug and alcohol use.
- **Ask for a shorter prescription.** Talk to your dentist about providing the shortest prescription length of opioid medication that is appropriate for your treatment.
- **Don't share your medication.** Only the person whose name is on the prescription label should take the medication. Opioid medications should never be shared with people who don't have a prescription.
- **Keep pills locked away.** Make sure you know how many pills you should have left and keep opioid medications in a safe place where others can't access them.
- **Dispose of medication safely.** Be sure to get rid of any leftover opioid medications by following safe disposal procedures. Learn more at www.fda.gov or ask your pharmacist.

Want to know more about how to manage pain safely with prescription opioids? Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.



For more information, visit us at deltadentalri.com.

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