DELTA DENTAL®



Dental Pain and Safety

What You Should Know About Opioids

If you or a member of your family have pain after wisdom tooth removal or other oral surgery, your dentist might prescribe medication to help. It's important to know that some medications, known as opioids, can lead to addiction if they're not used properly. Here are some ways to keep you and your family members safe:

1. **Try a non-opioid medication first.** You can take a pain reliever like ibuprofen or acetaminophen before trying an opioid. Ask your dentist what else can be done to manage your pain and swelling. For ongoing pain, reach out to your dentist.
2. **Tell your dentist about past drug use.** If you have ever been addicted to drugs or alcohol, let your dentist know.
3. **Ask about potential drug interactions** with other medications and alcohol.
4. **Ask for a shorter prescription.** Talk to your dentist about getting no more pills than needed to treat pain.
5. **Never share pills.** Only the person whose name is on the prescription label should take an opioid.
6. **Keep opioids out of reach.** Store your pills where other people can't get to them.
7. **Get rid of leftover pills safely.** Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of leftover opioids in a safe way. Or visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at fda.gov for information.

Visit deltadentalri.com to learn more about taking care of your teeth and gums.

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