



Oral, Facial & Implant Surgical Center of South Florida

Diplomates American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WITH CHANGES IN SENSATION OF THE LIP, CHIN OR TONGUE AFTER ORAL SURGERY

Oral surgery like any other surgery has certain inherent risks and limitations that occur despite the experience and skill of the doctor. You are experiencing a change in sensation or feeling following your oral surgery. The doctor discussed with you at the time of your consultation the possibility of this occurrence. We would like to provide you with some additional information that you may find helpful in answering your questions and addressing your concerns over this situation.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

The nerves that supply these regions are close to the area where surgery was performed, the nerves may not function normally for a while afterwards. These nerves affect sensation only and not movement. The most common cause of changed sensation is pressure on the nerve from the root during the removal of a tooth. Occasionally hooks or curves on the root push on some of the nerve fibers. A dental implant procedure may cause pressure on or swelling near a nerve. And, sometimes sensation is affected for no apparent reason.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

The likelihood that a change in sensation will occur and how long it may last can depend on many factors including position of the tooth, the nerve, or the difficulty of the procedure. The duration of the condition is unpredictable and different in each case. It may last a few days, weeks or months and in very rare instances, may be permanent. In the majority of cases, the sensory loss gradually fades away although you may not be aware of any immediate improvement. This is especially true when the nerve is taking longer to come back. For this reason, it is important for you to keep your follow-up appointments so that we may advise you of your specific circumstances.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the office at 305-667-1191.

Thank You!