

Safe Opioid Prescribing at Twin Cities Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, P.A.

In light of the national opioid crisis, the doctors and staff at Twin Cities Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery are committed to utilizing the most current prescribing guidelines for post-surgical pain, including safe opioid prescribing where appropriate. Our doctors follow the latest policy recommendations, including those from the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), Department of Health and Human Services/CDC, the American Dental Association (ADA) and Minnesota Board of Dentistry regarding limiting opioid prescribing. When not allergic or otherwise contraindicated, post-op pain after oral surgery procedures is best managed by correct dosing of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) such as Ibuprofen (Advil) or Naproxen (Aleve). In addition, alternating with proper doses of acetaminophen (Tylenol) can further alleviate mild to moderate pain. In most third molar surgeries, a longer-acting local anesthetic (Marcaine) has been given to allow for additional comfort, especially the first 8-12 hours. However, we realize that opioid narcotics like hydrocodone (Norco/Vicodin) may be indicated for many patient situations for moderate to severe pain. Like other medications, all opioids come with risks, addiction potential, drug interactions and side effects. We are happy to counsel all our patients and their loved ones/caregivers on appropriate, judicious and safe opioid use, including limiting quantities and proper disposal after the pain has resolved.

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