

I NCISIONS AND DRAINAGE OF INFECTIONS

THESE ARE PROCEDURE-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT ACCOMPANY
THE "POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTION" BROCHURE

An Incision and Drainage procedure is performed to help manage an aggressive infection. This procedure is often completed with the extraction of the tooth or teeth – causing the infection.

A drain (rubber tube) has been sutured in the gum area at the site of the infection. This tube allows the infection to "drain".

Antibiotic medications: You must take the medication precisely as prescribed. Missing doses or not taking the antibiotic at the correct time interval can cause your infection to become worse. This may result in the need for additional surgery and possibly hospitalization.

DO NOT APPLY HEAT OR COLD TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU HAVE SWELLING FROM AN INFECTION. Swelling may worsen initially after your procedure. This is normal. Swelling usually reaches its maximum two days following surgery. Keep your head elevated with 2-3 pillows when reclining for the first 2 days. This will help reduce swelling. If you feel your condition is worsening, please call the doctor immediately.

DRAIN REMOVAL: A post-operative appointment will have been scheduled for evaluation and drain removal. If the infection is resolving, drain removal involves removing sutures and then removal of the drain.

Infections that require an Incision and Drainage procedure are aggressive and can reoccur. These types of infections may lead to removal of additional teeth, additional surgical procedures and even hospitalization. Ignoring these infections can lead to serious breathing and swallowing problems.

