Intraoral Laceration

Your exam shows you have a cut inside your mouth. If it is deep or bleeds too much, stitches may be needed to hold it together. Most cuts in the mouth are minor and heal in 4-5 days. If stitches were used inside your mouth, they will usually come out on their own within one week.

To control bleeding you may apply direct pressure to the cut by squeezing it between your thumb and finger with a piece of gauze for several minutes. Sucking on an ice cube or a popsicle will reduce the pain and swelling. For the next 2-3 days eat a soft diet, avoid citrus juices, and stay away from salty or spicy foods. Rinse your mouth out with warm water right after you eat to remove any food particles from the cut.

Watch for signs of wound infection. These include unusual pain and swelling or pus drainage from around the cut. See your doctor or return here right away if you think your wound is infected.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT NOW IF:

- You have no idea when you had the last one.
- You have never had a tetanus shot before.
- Your cut had dirt in it.

If you need a tetanus shot, ***and you decide not to get one***, there is a rare chance of getting tetanus. Sickness from tetanus can be serious. *If you got a tetanus shot, your arm may swell, get red and warm to the touch at the shot site. This is common and not a problem.*

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