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Novel Use of Coe Pak

Sir, Coe Pak is a periodontal dressing used to protect wounds from mechanical trauma and stabilise the surgical site during healing. It is also said to improve patient comfort during tissue healing, has good adaptation to the gingival and bone tissues, reduces the risk of post-operative haemorrhage, irritation or infection, decreases tooth hypersensitivity, prevents gingival detachment from the root surface as well as coronal flap displacement, protects denuded bone during healing and is useful in splinting mobile teeth.^{1,2}

In patients who suffer from post-extraction bleeding due to contributing factors eg anticoagulants, bleeding disorders and who are not responding to local haemostatic measures eg pressure, packing, suturing, transexaemic acid, it was discovered that Coe Pak was an effective adjunct in aiding haemostasis. It has been shown to protect the clot from forces applied during speaking, drinking or chewing.¹

It consists of two pastes; a base and a catalyst which are mixed in equal portions until a thick and uniform consistency is achieved.³ Warm water can also be used to alter the setting time. This can then be easily manipulated and molded with gloves lubricated with water and petroleum. Pencil-sized rolls are then shaped which can be placed over the bleeding socket, while interlocking this with the interproximal areas to reduce the risk of swallowing. When haemostasis is achieved, this can be easily removed in a few days.

It is the author's hope that this may be a useful tip to other oral and maxillofacial colleagues when faced with a similar situation with patients who present in the Emergency Department.

References

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