

INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING SURGERY

bathing

- You may shower and wash your hair 2 days after surgery.
- Be very gentle around the ears and when combing or brushing your hair.

wound care

- Keep the dressings on, clean, and dry until your first office visit.
- Bruising and swelling around the eyes and face will worsen for the first three days. If you have severe swelling, or difficulty breathing call the office immediately.
- The surgical area may have numbness for a time after surgery. Therefore, avoid using a heating pad near the surgical area to avoid burning the skin.
- Make-up may be used one week after all the sutures have been removed.

reasons to call

- Significant swelling, or swelling on only one area, facial drooping.
- Fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).
- Skin redness and warmth (hot) around your wound.
- A change in drainage color (green/yellow/thick), foul-smelling odor, or sudden increase in drain volume.
- Pain not relieved by pain medication.

activity

- While resting, elevate your head on two pillows or in a chair the first day after surgery.
- Be sure your neck is straight, not flexed.
- Avoid bending over for the first week.
- Keep your head elevated at night for the first week.
- Do not lift more than 10lbs (or more than a gallon of milk) or perform any strenuous activities for 3-4 weeks after surgery.
- Do not swim or use a hot tub until your wounds have healed. This will be about 4-6 weeks.

medications

- Some postoperative pain is to be expected, your pain medication may take the edge off, but you may not achieve pain free. Call the office if you have severe pain that is not relieved by pain medication.
- You may take non-aspirin pain relievers such as acetaminophen or Tylenol for lesser pain, but do not take this in addition to your prescribed pain medication (the prescription medication likely has Tylenol in it already).
- Do not use aspirin or aspirin-containing drugs (Anacin, Bufferin, Bayer, Excedrin, etc), Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Advil, Motrin, Ibuprofen) as these medications interfere with blood clotting and may increase bleeding risks.

questions/concerns?

We have a doctor on call 24 hours a day. We are here for you! **Call us at 336-765-8620.**