

Instructions for Before and After Facelift Surgery

What to expect: You may expect to have soreness, bruising and swelling for several weeks. You may notice drainage on the dressings for a few days. Due to the bruising associated with this surgery, you may choose to consult with one of our medical aestheticians for a complimentary guide to makeup camouflage.

***IMPORTANT*:** If you are currently taking any type of birth control, the antibiotics given during and after surgery may interfere with the effects of birth control. You should use a second method for one month post-surgery.

SIX WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY: Your surgeon may request you abstain from smoking and all tobacco/nicotine products for 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after surgery. Failure to abstain from tobacco/nicotine may result in your surgery being postponed or canceled as this complicates the healing process.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY: Discontinue Aspirin and Aspirin-like products, ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil), Naprosyn (Aleve), vitamin E, Omega-3, Omega-6, Flaxseed oil and certain herbs like Ginko Biloba, St. John's Wort and Ephedra. Have other vitamins or herbs cleared with our office. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol), as directed, at any time prior to surgery.

*****MAOI medications** – You MUST be off any MAOIs for a total of 10 days prior to surgery. Contact your prescriber to be instructed on tapering off the medication prior to surgery.

DAY OF SURGERY: Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the evening before surgery, unless otherwise directed by the anesthesiologist.

AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Your greatest discomfort usually occurs the first 24-48 hours after surgery. During this time, take all medications prescribed by your surgeon as directed. It is helpful to take pain medication with bland food to avoid nausea, which may occur if taken on an empty stomach.
- Use lightweight ice packs for cold compression on your eyes only (no ice on the side of your face) during the first 24-48 hours, to decrease bleeding and swelling. 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off, while awake. A small bag of frozen peas works well for this as they are light and can be refrozen.
- Sleep with your head elevated on several pillows or reclined in a chair for 1 week post-op to decrease swelling. You may want to place a towel on your pillow to protect it from the expected drainage.
- Contact the office before taking any Aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) or Aspirin-like medications. You may take Tylenol, if you are not taking pain medicine that already contains Tylenol (acetaminophen), such as Percocet (oxycodone) or Norco (hydrocodone).
- Eat easily digestible foods such as Jell-O, ginger ale or soups. These are tolerated well the first 24 hours after surgery. If you are not experiencing nausea, you may resume a normal diet.
- Drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages and eat fruit and food high in fiber to avoid constipation. Should constipation occur, discontinue pain medication (if tolerated). For relief, you may try magnesium citrate (purchased at your local pharmacy) or prune juice. It may take up to 24 hours to produce a bowel movement. These treatments may be repeated as needed.

AFTER SURGERY ACTIVITY AND HYGIENE INSTRUCTIONS:

- No lifting over 10-15lb. until cleared by your surgeon. When picking up items, bend at the knees, not from the waist.
- When at home, take frequent rest periods – you may walk for short distances, as walking is important to prevent blood clots from forming in your legs. As you increase your activity, let pain be your guide. If it hurts, don't do it.
- Do not resume jogging, aerobics, sexual or vigorous activity until cleared by your surgeon.
- No heavy household chores (laundry, vacuuming, sweeping/mopping, etc.) until cleared by your surgeon.
- At your first post-op visit, your dressings will be removed and you will be placed in a chinstrap.
- Continue to wear the garment placed on you at your post-op visit 24/7, except to shower or to launder the garment, until cleared by your physician.
- You may shower and wash your hair after your first post-op visit. Towel dry or blow dry hair with NO heat. You may have metal clips behind the ears that could cause burns if drying hair using heat. Take care when using a brush or comb in your hair as to not disrupt the sutures present. Pat dry any incisions.
- While taking pain medicine, have someone assist you with daily activities, particularly personal hygiene.
- Avoid vigorous activities that require pushing, pulling and/or lifting heavy objects.
- Check with your surgeon before returning to work, particularly if your job requires heavy lifting or vigorous activity.
- Avoid sunbathing for 4-6 weeks or until cleared by your surgeon.
- Do not chemically treat hair for 6 weeks.
- Do not smoke for 6 weeks as smoking delays the healing process.
- You may drive if it is greater than 24 hours after treatment and you have not taken prescription pain medicine in 24 hours or more.

WOUND CARE:

- You may have several layers of dressings. Leave these dressings in place until your follow up with your surgeon. If any of the dressings come off prior to your follow up appointment, please contact our office for further instructions.
- **DO NOT PUT ANYTHING ON YOUR INCISIONS UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY YOUR SURGEON!**

NOTIFY YOUR SURGEON IF:

- You have a fever greater than 101 that lasts more than 24 hours.
- You develop excessive swelling, redness or warmth of incisions.
- You experience severe pain not responding to pain medication.
- You develop thick, odorous drainage or bleeding that does not subside.
- You experience shortness of breath.

If you have concerns after hours, contact our office at 417-875-3246 and an operator will page the on-call provider for you.