

Face Lift POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

ACTIVITY

1. The first week you will need to rest frequently. You may walk round the house as tolerated.
2. Sleep on your back with your head elevated at least the first week to decrease swelling. Avoid sleeping on your side.
3. Every 2-3 hours take deep breaths to expand your lungs. You may not be able to breathe through your nose.
4. Avoid picking up anything greater than 1-2 lbs. or bending over the first week. The doctor will tell you when you can lift anything heavier.
5. Avoid bending over or doing housework.
6. Do not exercise until told to do so.
7. Do not drive the first week or while you are taking your pain medication
8. **Do not smoke** or be around smoke at least the first 2 weeks. This will interfere with healing.

DIET

1. Eat light the first 24 hours, clear liquids advancing to regular diet as tolerated.
2. If you have persistent nausea stick to a bland diet until it subsides.
3. It may be easier to chew soft foods initially.
4. The pain medicine may cause constipation. Drink plenty of fluids. You may take an over the counter laxative.

DRESSINGS

1. You will have a dressing wrapped around your head and under your chin. It will be removed in 24-72 hours. The doctor will tell you when you are to come to have it removed.
2. You may have 1-2 drains which will be removed at your first post-op visit. Please follow drain care instructions on a separate sheet.
3. Do not shower until the dressings are removed.
4. Your face may be swollen and bruised and your smile may be uneven. This could last 1-2 weeks.

MEDICATION

1. The antibiotic should be taken until it is completed as prescribed.
2. The pain medicine is a narcotic and should be taken as prescribed. Do not take any Tylenol while taking the pain medicine. The medication we prescribe already has Tylenol in it.
3. Do not drink alcohol or drive while you are taking the pain medication.
4. The pain medicine can cause nausea and should be taken with food at each dose.
5. You may resume your regular medication after your surgery **except for NSAIDs** (wait at least 5 days post-op)
6. If you take aspirin or Coumadin, check with our doctor as to when you can resume.

CALL THE OFFICE AT (252) 633-1197 IF YOU HAVE:

1. A temperature greater than 101 degrees.
2. Excessive bleeding saturating the dressings.
3. A sudden increase in drainage, pain, or swelling at the incision site or the surrounding area.
4. If you have persistent vomiting, have a pharmacy number so a script can be called in.
5. Any questions regarding your care.

IF YOU HAVE A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 911 AND GO TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL.