

Olympic Plastic Surgery Center

Postoperative Care for Gluteal flaps

- Have someone drive you home after surgery and help you at home for 1-2 days.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Follow balanced diet.
- Decreased activity may promote constipation, so you may want to add more raw fruit to your diet, and be sure to increase fluid intake.
- Take pain medication as prescribed. Do not take aspirin or any products containing aspirin.
- Do not drink alcohol when taking pain medications.
- Even when not taking pain medications, no alcohol for 3 weeks as it causes fluid retention.
- If you are taking vitamins with iron, resume these as tolerated.
- Do not smoke, as smoking delays healing and increases the risk of complications.

ACTIVITIES

- Start walking as soon as possible, as this helps to reduce swelling and lowers the chance of blood clots.
- Do not drive until you are no longer taking any pain medications (narcotics).
- Do not drive until you have full range of motion with your arms.
- No lifting greater than 5 lbs. for 6 weeks.
- Resume sexual activity as comfort permits, usually 2-3 weeks postoperatively.
- Avoid straining of abdominal muscles. Strenuous exercise and activities are restricted for 6 weeks.
- Return to work in 2-4 weeks.

INCISION CARE

- You may shower 48 hours after surgery.
- Avoid exposing scars to sun for at least 12 months.
- Always use a strong sunblock, if sun exposure is unavoidable (SPF 30 or greater).
- Keep steri-strips on.
- Keep incisions clean and inspect daily for signs of infection.
- No tub soaking while sutures or drains are in place.

- May wear soft support underpants for comfort; may pad incision with dressings for comfort.
- Sleep with pillow under knees and head elevated on 2 pillows.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- You may experience temporary pain, soreness, numbness of skin, incision discomfort.
- Maximum discomfort will occur the first few days.
- You may have bruising and swelling of the buttocks. The majority of bruising and swelling will subside in 6-8 weeks.
- You may feel tired for several weeks or months.
- Regular removal of hair by shaving or depilatory cream

APPEARANCE

- You will walk slightly bent forward and gradually return to normal posture over the next week.
- Scars will be reddened for 6 months. After that, they will fade and soften.

FOLLOW-UP CARE

- Drains removed when less than 30 ml for 24 hours.
- Strip drain(s) 2-3 times per day and record output at least once daily
- Surface stitches removed in 12-14 days if present.
- Avoid prolonged sitting, riding a bicycle, scooter or horse for 6 weeks to prevent wound disruption
- Maintain good local hygiene

WHEN TO CALL

- If you have increased swelling or bruising.
- If swelling and redness persist after a few days.
- If you have increased redness along the incision.
- If you have severe or increased pain not relieved by medication.
- If you have any side effects to medications; such as, rash, nausea, headache, vomiting.
- If you have an oral temperature over 101.4 degrees.
- If you have any yellowish or greenish drainage from the incisions or notice a foul odor.

- If you have bleeding from the incisions that is difficult to control with light pressure.
- If you have loss of feeling or motion.

For medical questions, please call: (360)479-4370. If after normal business hours, the answering service will contact us and we will respond promptly.