

## Neck Lift – Pre & Post-operative Instructions

You will need to arrange for another responsible adult to pick you up following your surgery. They should be available at any time during the day. In addition, it is strongly recommended for someone to stay with you for one night following your surgery. This is advisable because the anesthetic medications you have been given will make you feel drowsy and possibly nauseated.

### Prior to Your Surgery

- On the day prior to your surgery, you may eat and drink as desired until midnight. **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT BEFORE YOUR SURGERY.**
- BLOOD THINNERS
  - If you take a daily aspirin (ASA) for preventative reasons only (i.e. you have no cardiac history, previous heart attack, stroke, blood clot or atrial fibrillation) we ask that you discontinue taking it 2 weeks prior to surgery and 1 week after surgery.
  - If you take ASA or any other blood thinner (Warfarin/Coumadin, Pradaxa, Plavix/Clopidogrel, ect.) due to previous cardiac history then please contact your cardiologist or family physician to see if it is **safe** for you to discontinue prior to your surgery. Please follow their recommendations regarding stopping these medications. If they allow you to stop them 2 days prior to your surgery, please do so as it will significantly decrease the amount of bruising you experience after surgery.
  - **If you are on warfarin, please ensure your most recent INR is below 2.5. If you are unsure, please contact your family physician. Please ensure you notify our office the week prior to your surgery with your most recent INR value.**
- PAIN RELIEVERS
  - Several common pain relievers affect how blood clots. If you are taking any medications for pain prior to your surgery, please avoid Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Advil and Aleve for a period of 2 weeks prior to surgery and 1 week after. This is to avoid excess bleeding during the operation. Tylenol is the only medication recommended prior to surgery and may be taken as needed.
- HERBAL MEDICATIONS
  - Avoid Ginseng, Garlic and Gingko.
- HORMONE REPLACEMENT DRUGS AND BIRTH CONTROL PILLS
  - Please discontinue taking any of these drugs on month prior to surgery
- VITAMIN E
  - Avoid large doses of Vitamin E for 3 weeks prior to surgery and 2 weeks post-operatively to avoid wound-healing problems.
- Please arrive at the surgical centre one hour prior to your surgery. Be prepared to tell the staff the name and phone number of the person who will be picking you up. They will be contacted when it is time to pick you up. Dr. Dawes will see you prior to your surgery, as will the anaesthesiologist.

- On the day before your surgery, our office will contact you to confirm your surgery time and answer any last-minute questions. If you have any additional questions or concerns, you may call our office at (403) 571-3141.

## Following Your Surgery

- After surgery, you should go home and rest in bed for 24 hours. Use extra pillows to keep your head elevated when lying down. You may go to the bathroom with assistance as you may feel dizzy or faint during this time. When lying down, make an effort to move your legs and feet often (for 5-10 mins every 1-2 hours).
- Your binder should be worn full time (or as much as possible) for 2 weeks following your surgery. You may remove it to shower.
- Limit activities which involve a great deal of facial movement such as excessive talking, laughing, heavy chewing or turning your neck sharply upwards or downwards, for 48 hours after surgery. Gradually increase activity, as you are able, the day after surgery. Avoid bending your head forward for three days. Avoid strenuous activity for two weeks.
- Drink plenty of fluids. A soft diet can be started the day after surgery. Eat foods that require little chewing for 24 hours, then increase to a solid diet. Dr. Dawes recommends that you start slow – with sips of clear fluids, progressing through soups and juices to a regular diet.
- **Avoid smoking for 4 weeks post-operatively.**
- You will be given a prescription for pain medications. These may cause drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and constipation. Straining, such as lifting, vomiting and coughing are to be avoided as this may cause bleeding. To avoid nausea and vomiting it is recommended to have some Gravol (Dimenhydrinate) on hand to take if needed.
- To avoid constipation, drink lots of fluids and eat foods with plenty of fiber. Constipation medications including **Lax-a-day/Restoralax** Lactulose, Senokot and Colace are available over-the-counter.
- See sheet entitled **Optimal Wound Healing – normal incisions** (attached) for specific wound healing instructions. Please contact Dr. Dawes' office to schedule a follow up appointment in the next week if you do not already have one scheduled. Your dressing will be removed at this time in Dr. Dawes' office. Sutures will be removed at his discretion.

## What to Expect

- Swelling usually subsides after three weeks, but can occasionally persist longer. If swelling worsens and is associated with pain, please call Dr. Dawes' office immediately.
- Bruising may be extensive. It will be worst at 3-4 days and may persist for up to 3 weeks. Avoid prolonged exposure to sun and heat for three months to prevent swelling of your face. You may experience a feeling of numbness around the incisions. This is normal and may persist for several weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Dawes' office at (403) 571-3141. If it is of an urgent nature, please contact Dr. Dawes at (403) 998-4548.