



POST-SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

BUCCAL FAT PAD REDUCTION

1. If you have excessive drainage, swelling, bleeding or pain, call our office at 703-962-2520. After office hours, you may reach Dr. Chopra on his cell phone at 571-236-1977
2. **Do not smoke or be exposed to second hand smoke for two weeks before and after surgery.** Smoking reduces capillary flow in your skin causing necrosis, or death, of tissues and permanent visible scarring.
3. Do not drink alcohol one week before and after surgery because it dilates the blood vessels and could increase post-operative bleeding. Do not drink alcohol until you have stopped taking the prescription pain pills as the combination can be dangerous.
4. DO NOT TAKE ASPIRIN, IBUPROFEN (MOTRIN, ALEVE), FISH OIL, VITAMIN E, GINGKO BILOBA or ST. JOHN'S WART for at least two weeks before and after the operation.
5. You need to eat a high protein diet, 80-100g a day for your body to heal well and quickly. Protein shakes may be necessary to fulfill this requirement.
6. **Medications:**
 - Pain:
 - For discomfort, take pain medication as directed.
 - If you are no longer taking the narcotic, two Tylenol (Acetaminophen) 500mg tablets every 3-4 tablets help most discomfort. Take no more than 8 tablets per day.
 - Narcotic pain medication is constipating; therefore, take Colace or fiber supplements such as Metamucil or Senekot regularly. If you are prone to constipation you may want to increase your regular dose to prevent constipation from occurring.
 - **Note:** narcotic pain medication can only be given as a written prescription. It is therefore important to be mindful of the possible need to have someone available to pick up refills from the office.
 - Call the office at (703) 962-2520 if you have severe pain that is not responding to pain medication.
 - Nausea:
 - Take pain meds with food to prevent nausea. A couple of crackers aren't enough.
 - Take medication 30 minutes prior to the narcotic to prevent nausea from occurring every 4-6 hours.
 - Antibiotic:
 - Take antibiotics until prescription is finished to avoid infections.
 - Anti-anxiety:
 - Mainly used prior to surgery.

7. **Daily activities:**

- Working from home: Do not do meaningful work or make important decisions when on narcotic medication.
- For your safety we require that an adult stay with you at least the first 24 hours and drive you to your next day follow up visit, specially if you are taking pain medication. Transportation via taxi is not permitted.
- Mobilize throughout the day; no permanent bed rest. We advise to walk around 3-5 times per day in addition to mobilizing for meals and to the bathroom.
- You may shower and wash your face after the procedure. Use lukewarm water with soap, and gently pat the incisions sites dry. No baths or prolonged showers of over 5-10 minutes.
- Do not brush your teeth for 24 hours gently. Brush your teeth gently 2-3 times daily with a soft bristled toothbrush.
- Use a mouth rinse or Peridex mouth rinse (Chlorhexidine) after meals, to avoid food getting stuck into the wounds.
- Rest with your head elevated above your heart for at least the first 7 days after surgery to help reduce the swelling. Do **NOT** sleep on your side. No bending or leaning forward as this will cause increased swelling and bleeding tendencies. Also avoid standing over hot stoves and surfaces, as this will also increase swelling.
- Excessive talking and chewing should be avoided for the first few days. A soft diet is recommended.
- Regular exercise and lifting objects heavier than 10lbs is restricted for 4-6 weeks.
- You may drive when driving does not cause pain and you are completely off all narcotic pain medication.

8. **What to expect:**

- If undergoing general anesthesia, you may experience a sore throat. This is not uncommon and should resolve in a few days. You may use throat lozenges to help with the discomfort.
- For incisions inside the mouth, the sutures will approximately dissolve the 10th day following surgery.
- During the healing process, you will experience different sensations including discomfort, stinging, itching and localized burning.
- You should anticipate a variable degree of numbness in the areas treated after the procedure.
- Much of the swelling usually subsides by 7-10 days.
- Bruises and discoloration may take 3 weeks to resolve.
- Everyone heals at a different pace. Be patient with your body during the recovery process.

9. **Garments and dressings:**

- Do not remove any bandages or dressings unless told explicitly to do so. On average, we will remove most of the dressings the first post-operative day.
- Dressings must be worn continuously until the next follow up appointment. This appointment takes place usually 24 hours after the procedure.

Please understand the physician may adjust the above instructions based on your progress and needs