



THE PLASTIC SURGERY CENTRE

Instructions for Patients Having Rhinoplasty Surgery

2 Weeks Before Surgery

- Avoid all aspirin containing products, all anti-inflammatory medications (ie. Ibuprofen such as Advil or Motrin), all products containing 400 IU's of vitamin E and any herbal medications. These products can increase bleeding both during and after surgery and may lead to increased postoperative bruising, swelling and recovery time.
- Stop or at least cut down on smoking. Smoking constricts small blood vessels causing delayed healing, increased scarring and increased recovery time.
- Begin taking a multivitamin tablet daily, which can speed healing and shorten recovery time. It is recommended to continue your multivitamin for one month following surgery.
- Arrange for transportation to and from surgery. You must have someone responsible pick you up and remain with you for a minimum of 24 hours. You cannot take a taxi home on your own.
- It is recommended to restrict activity for approximately 2 weeks following surgery. It is advisable to make arrangements for assistance.
- Avoid dental appointments 2 weeks prior to surgery as well as 2 weeks postoperatively.
- Arnica capsules or pellets can be taken orally starting 2 days before surgery and can continue for 5 days post op. This homeopathic medication can assist in decreasing bruising and swelling due to surgery.

24 Hours Before Surgery

- Avoid alcohol and smoking.
- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before your surgery (no water, no gum). If surgery is booked after 12 noon, clear fluids may be allowed up to 6 hours before surgery (ie: black coffee/tea, clear juice, water). Our nurse will advise you on this when you are given your time for surgery.

Day of Surgery

- Wear loose, comfortable button-up/zipper clothing (ie. Jog suit, slip on shoes).
- Leave valuables at home (remove contact lenses, jewelry or piercing of any kind).
- Take any regular prescribed medications (ie. blood pressure medications) with a small amount of water.

After Surgery

- Some pain and nausea can be expected. This can be relieved with anti-pain and anti-nausea medications. Take them as directed. If you are coming from out of town, please have these medications with you.
- You may have a cast present. This will be removed within 6-8 days post-op.
- Maintain a regular fluid intake during the day, decreasing intake after supper.
- Rest is important to minimize pain and nausea.
- Try to maintain an upright sitting position at all times (ie. 25-45 degree angle) for the first 2-7 days post-op. This will assist in the reduction of post-operative swelling and speed healing time.
- Begin a light nutritional regime and increase your food intake as tolerated
- Take anti-pain medications with food to avoid an upset stomach. Begin taking antibiotic medication once home from surgery and continue until prescription is finished. Eat yogurt while taking antibiotics. If diarrhea occurs, stop antibiotics and call our office for further direction.

**Call (403)228-1313 if you have any questions or concerns.
If leaving a message please leave a number.**

Post-Operative Day 1

- You may shower or bathe if you wish, ensuring your cast and/or dressing does not become wet.
- Ice placed in a baggie can be applied to the eyes to assist in the decrease of post-operative swelling. Please ensure that ice is not placed directly on your skin.
- Be aware of any unusual swelling or a sudden increase in pain. If either of these are noted, phone the office as soon as possible.
- Continue to maintain a regular fluid intake during the day.
- Continue to maintain an upright position.
- Be aware of decreased skin sensation. Do not apply excessive heat or cold to the operative areas.
- Polysporin ointment should be applied gently with a Q-tip to the nostrils to prevent crusting.
- Do not smoke.
- Rest as much as possible.

- A nurse will call you by noon to assess how you are doing. At this time, you will be given further post-operative instructions as well as an appointment for your first post-operative visit.

Post-Operative Days 2-7

- Continue to maintain an upright position.
- Gradually increase your activity level after 7 days postoperatively. As individuals, everyone's post-operative healing phases will differ. Generally speaking, gentle exercise may resume at 10 days with moderate exercise resuming after 3 weeks. It is advisable to abstain from a full exercise regime until 6 weeks postoperatively.
- Scar tissue (firmness or hardening of operative tissues) may increase up to 6 weeks with the resultant softening of the tissues.
- Approximately 75% of swelling will diminish within 3 – 4 weeks. Any remaining swelling can take from 6 months to 1 year to absorb.
- Best results are usually not seen until 3 months following surgery.
- The final stages of healing are usually not complete until 1 year post-operatively.