

Pre and Post-Operative Instructions for Blepharoplasty

Charleston Plastic Surgery

For a speedier recovery, please follow these instructions:

- Someone must be with you for the first 24-48 hours following surgery. This is to make sure you are taking your medicine properly, to assist you when walking [if needed] and to get in touch with us.
- Post-Operative prescriptions will be filled and ready for you to take home the day of surgery. Please review the pharmacists printed instructions as well as potential adverse reactions. *Please be sure to take your antibiotic until it is gone.*
- You may experience a sore throat after surgery. This is common after anesthesia and will clear up in a few days.
- **NAUSEA:** Mild nausea is common after surgery. If you have moderate to severe nausea, please use Phenergan [suppository]. If vomiting occurs, use ice chips until clear liquids can be tolerated.
- **PAIN:** You will be given prescription medications for pain and muscle spasms, please take as needed. Starting the day after surgery you will begin taking Ibuprofen. You will be taking this in addition to your prescription pain medication to help reduce inflammation and swelling. When you are off the prescription pain medicine during the day, you are welcome to increase the Ibuprofen to reduce inflammation/swelling AND for pain. You may take Tylenol if you are allergic to Ibuprofen or if you are not allowed to NSAIDS. Please do not exceed 3200mg of Ibuprofen or 4g of Tylenol per day. Remember, narcotics may cause constipation, please drink plenty of water. You may use a stool softener if you have not had a bowel movement in 3 days.
- **SMOKING:** No nicotine is tolerated at least 4 weeks prior to surgery and for at least 8 weeks after surgery. Avoid secondary smoke. Nicotine will constrict blood vessels, leading to poor wound healing.
- **DRIVING:** Do not drive a car or operate machinery for at least 24 hours and until you are no longer taking narcotics.
- **EXERCISE/ACTIVITY:** Please be sure to walk around the house the day after surgery to prevent post-operative complications. Please be sure to have assistance when you first get out of bed. Gradually work up to your normal daily routine. For the 5 days after surgery, you should not lift anything greater than 10lbs and walking should be your only form of exercise. Further lifting instructions will be given to you at your first post-operative appointment but typically you should not lift anything greater than 30lbs and only low impact exercises from week 2 to week 6.
- **REST:** You should plan to sleep on your back and elevated for the first 2 weeks after surgery. You can use a wedge, 2-3 extra pillows, or sleep in a recliner. This will help reduce swelling and discomfort.
- **COMPLICATIONS:** If you experience a sudden fever of 101 or greater, increased swelling, redness, heat, or profuse bleeding please call our office for advice: 843-722-1985

Specific Instructions:

- **BROMELAIN:** We ask that you start taking Bromelain pills to prevent bruising. You will start this medication 5 days prior to surgery. It can be purchased at our West Ashley office.
- **ARNICA:** You will start taking Arnica pills the day after your surgery to help reduce bruising. It can be purchased at our West Ashley office.
- You will have steri-strips in place over your eyelids and on the middle of your forehead. Please keep these on for the next week. We will send you home with extras just in case the current ones come off or need to be changed.
- You can expect some bruising and swelling around your eyes for 7-14 days. This is normal but can be reduced by following Dr. Harvey's instructions.

- **COLD COMPRESSES:** You will need to use a cold compress around the eyes for the first 24 hours after surgery. Please keep a cold compress on constantly until bed time. You may use cold compresses when you wake up and until noon the following day. You may use a gel pad or a bag of frozen peas. This will help decrease the swelling and bruising.
- **WARM COMPRESSES:** Warm will be started 48 hours following surgery to decrease bruising and swelling around your eyes. You may wet a wash cloth, wring it out as much as possible, and heat it in the microwave for approximately 1.5 minutes. *Please test the wash cloth on your wrist to make sure it is not too hot to burn your face.*
- **SALINE EYE DROPS:** You may experience eye irritation or dryness following surgery. Please purchase *moisturizing saline eye drops or artificial tears* and use as needed. This is not required, just a suggestion if you have swelling around your eyes.
- Your stitches are typically removed a week after surgery.
- You will be given further instructions at your 1st post-operative visit.