



Post-Operative and Home Care Instructions for Breast Reduction Surgery

DIET: Start with clear liquids and toast or crackers. If those are well tolerated, progress to a regular diet.

DRIVING: No driving for 1 week after your procedure or while taking pain medicine.

ACTIVITY: You may walk and climb stairs immediately after surgery. After 4 weeks you may resume light activity such as brisk walking. During the first 4 weeks do not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk. After 6 weeks you may resume more strenuous aerobic work and lifting activities as discussed with your physician.

WORK: Depending on your career and your rate of healing you should be able to return to work within 1-2 weeks of surgery. Your surgeon will be able to give you a better estimate depending on your physical and professional profile.

WOUND CARE: Keep your dressings clean, dry, and intact for the first 48 hours. If you go home with a drain, empty and record its daily output. Once the drain is removed, you need to keep a dressing over the drain site for 1 to 2 days or until the drain site heals.

SWELLING: Moderate swelling and bruising should be expected during the first 2 to 3 weeks after surgery. During this period wear a bra without under-wires that provides support at all times (except when showering) to minimize swelling and discomfort. Mild swelling will continue for 2 to 3 months. Women may notice additional swelling and discomfort during menstruation.

BATHING: You may shower and wash your hair 48 hours after surgery. Shower only for the first 30 days post-operative. Try to keep the shower directed at your back and not at your incision or dressing. It is okay if the dressing gets wet in the shower. Pat area dry after your shower. For the first 4-6 weeks after surgery, do not submerge in a bathtub, pool, or hot tub.

MEDICATIONS: Ask your surgeon when you should resume your blood thinning medications. All other prescription medications may be resumed the following day if tolerating solids/fluid. While you are taking pain medicine, you are encouraged to follow a high fiber diet or take a stool softener such as Colace (available over the counter), as pain medications tend to cause constipation. Take the full course of antibiotics given by your surgeon to help prevent infection.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL: Do not smoke for the first month after surgery as it impedes wound healing and can lead to serious wound complications. Alcohol consumption is dangerous while taking pain medicine because it has a tendency to worsen bleeding.

POST-OPERATIVE APPOINTMENT: Your surgeon will schedule follow-up visits at appropriate intervals. Please keep all these appointments so that your progress may be followed closely.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Call your surgeon immediately if you experience any of the following: excessive pain, bleeding, redness at the incision site, or fever over 101° F.

FINAL RESULTS: You will see dramatic improvements immediately after surgery, with which you will be quite pleased.



However, it may take six months to a year before the breasts reach their final contour and shape.