



Post Surgical Instructions

7 Mt Bethel Rd
Warren, NJ 07059
908-787-8088

Patient: _____

Date: _____

Procedure: _____

Site: _____

Discharged with: [] Self [] Family member [] Friend [] Caregiver

If you notice any of the following signs or symptoms, or if you have any concerns or problems, call the office immediately:

Increasing pain
Increasing swelling
Spreading redness

Drainage of pus
Opening of wound
Heavy bleeding

- For the first 24 hrs, keep the dressing in place and keep it dry.
After 24 hrs, you may remove the dressing and gently cleanse the wound with soap and water 2 times a day.
If you did not get a skin graft, you may also shower normally after 24 hrs, but do not let the water beat directly on the wound.
If you have a skin graft, keep the initial pressure dressing in place and keep the area dry for 1 week until you come to the office for a dressing change.
It is normal to have a little drainage or dried blood on the bandage when you change it.
If you notice a red itchy bumpy rash around the site, you may be allergic to the ointment or band-aid.
If your surgery was on the lips or around the mouth, eat soft foods and avoid excessive chewing or opening your mouth widely to avoid excessive bleeding.
If your surgery was in the upper part of the face around the eyes, eyelids, forehead, scalp, or nose, significant eyelid swelling and bruising may occur.
If your surgery was on the lower legs, you must stay off your feet for 48-72 hrs and keep leg elevated.
If the wound starts to actively bleed, apply continuous firm pressure to the area for 20 min. Do not stop to check if the bleeding has stopped.

- Avoid exercise, heavy lifting (more than 15 lbs), bending, stooping, strenuous activity for at least 2 weeks to minimize risk of wound opening up.
Do not submerge the operative site under the water in a pool, ocean, bathtub, jacuzzi or hot tub for at least 7 days to reduce risk of infection.
It is normal for some swelling to occur around the surgical site. Keep the area elevated if possible. Ice packs over the dressing 20 min on, 20 min off for several hours for the first 48 hrs may help.
During the healing process, it is normal to have some redness and inflammation around the site. Please call the office if the redness expands, or if the wound becomes more painful, swollen, or warm with time, as this may indicate an infection.
For discomfort, you may take extra-strength Tylenol or the prescription you were given. Avoid ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, Aleve as these can cause bleeding.
If you were asked to stop your baby aspirin or vitamins prior to surgery, you may restart the day after surgery.
Do not drive if you are taking any codeine or other narcotic pain medications.
Post-op pain medication: Tylenol with Codeine, Other
Post-op antibiotics: Keflex 500 mg twice daily x 7 days, Z-pack x 5 days, Other
Return for suture removal in ___ days.
Skin cancer follow up: While the chance of skin cancer recurring after Mohs surgery is extremely low, it is recommended that you receive a full body skin exam every 3-6 months for the first year after skin cancer diagnosis to check for recurrence and new cancers.
My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and received a copy of the instructions, and that all of my questions have been answered.

Patient _____

Nurse _____

If you have any problems or concerns after surgery, please call immediately. Dr. Lu can always be reached through the answering service. We are happy to speak with you any time: 908-787-8088