

## Cosmetic and Reconstructive Oculoplastic Surgery

### **POST-OPERATIVE FOR INSTRUCTIONS DCR & CANALICULAR RECONSTRUCTION**

#### A. INCISION CARE

1. Start compresses today, continue cold compresses for 1 week. WHILE YOU ARE AWAKE, apply ice compresses to the surgical site(s). The most effective method is to soak a clean washcloth in ice water and then apply to the skin. The compress must be kept cold while applied for 30 minutes out of every hour. A Telfa pad should be placed over the skin before applying the compress. The compress may be applied more frequently. The more often you use it during the first 48 hours after surgery, the less swelling discomfort you will have. On the second day the compress should be applied for 15 minutes at least six times daily. Thereafter, compresses are used at least four times daily until your first post-operative visit. Second week instructions will be given to you at your 1<sup>st</sup> week post-operative visit.

2. Light bleeding from the incision is usual after surgery. It can be stopped by applying firm, uninterrupted pressure to the bleeding site with a gauze pad for 15 MINUTES. Never rub the lid as it will rebleed. Do not rub the incision. If bleeding does not stop, please call our office.

Accumulated blood should be cleaned on the second postoperative day by soaking the area with a cotton ball soaked in Hydrogen Peroxide that is diluted with equal parts water. This should be done as often as needed to keep the stitches clean.

3. Apply Vaseline ointment to your incision line 2 times per day to keep it moist. You may instill Lacri-Lube into the eye if it feels scratchy-it will cause blurry vision but will soothe the eye. Lacri-Lube can be purchased over the counter at any drug store.

#### B. MEDICATIONS

1. Tylenol 650mg and Advil 400mg **together at the same time** every 6 hours as needed for pain. Tylenol and Advil are both available over the counter.

2. Afrin nasal spray: Please DO NOT blow or pull anything from your nose. Use one puff into the nostril on the side of the surgery every 12 hours for 2 days. You may also use Ocean Spray, or any saline nasal spray as needed for nasal congestion.

3. In some cases post-operative pain medication along with the combination of anesthesia can cause constipation, which may lead to eyelid bleeding. We strongly recommend that you take an over the counter stool softener (Colace) one week prior and continue one week following your procedure.

4. **DO NOT SMOKE.** Smoking will interfere with the healing process and may cause the tissue to die.

C. DIET

A CLEAR LIQUID DIET IS RECOMMENDED AT LEAST 24 HOURS FOLLOWING YOUR SURGICAL PROCEDURE, TO AVOID NAUSEA. THIS MAY INCLUDE WATER, ICE CHIPS, JELLO, OR POPSICLES.

D. ACTIVITIES

1. Lifting, bending, and stooping should be avoided for 5 days following surgery.
2. Elevating your head will help reduce swelling and improve comfort.
3. After 48 hours has elapsed, you may resume mild low-impact exercises such as walking on a tread mill. Running, Stairmaster, weight lifting, etc. is to be avoided for 14 days; your normal activities can usually be resumed following your first postoperative visit.
4. Protect incision from direct exposure to sunlight and artificial sunlamps.

E. USUAL MEDICATIONS.

1. Following surgery, you will be given instructions as to when to resume your blood thinners (i.e. aspirin, aspirin products, Coumadin, warfarin, Plavix, and Effient)
2. Medications for hypertension, diabetes and most other conditions, except as above, are continued without interruption except as otherwise instructed.

F. SHOWERING AND HAIR WASHING

Usually all right on the day of or day following surgery unless you have a dressing. In that case, please do not get it wet.

G. OTHER:

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PLEASE CALL (502) 495-2122 IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY SUCH AS SEVERE PAIN, DECREASED VISION, MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

18. I UNDERSTAND THESE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO ME

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PATIENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

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WITNESS