

EAR TUCK SURGERY (OTOPLASTY)

Surgery Date: _____ Place: _____ Arrival Time: _____

TWO WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:

1. Some medication can interfere with anesthesia and cause undesirable side effects that can affect your surgery. Please read over the enclosed medication information list and let us know if you take any of them. Aspirin should not be taken 1 week before or after surgery. Tylenol is a good medication to take for any aches or pains you may have prior to surgery.
2. Smoking will affect how you heal. It is very important to stop smoking 2-3 months before your surgery.
3. If you develop a cold, facial sore or any other illness prior to surgery, please notify us.
4. If you are having surgery as an outpatient, please be sure arrangements have been made for a responsible adult to drive you to and pick you up after your surgery and to stay with you for the first 24 hours.

EVENING BEFORE SURGERY:

1. Shampoo your hair and wash your face. Do not use conditioner or hair spray after shampooing.
2. Make some jello and/or soup for after surgery.
3. Get a good night's rest.
4. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

MORNIG OF SURGERY: Be at the Surgery Center/Hospital at: _____

1. Do not eat or drink **anything** if your surgery is scheduled before noon. If your surgery is scheduled after noon, you may have coffee or tea and dry toast no later than 8 hours before your scheduled surgery time.
2. Do not wear wigs, hairpins, hairpieces, or jewelry. Dress in loose-fitting comfortable clothes. **Do not wear pullover tops or panty hose.** Wear slip on shoes.
3. Have someone drive you to your surgery and make certain a responsible adult will be available to take you home and stay with you for 24 hours. Put a pillow and blanket in the car for the trip home.

AT HOME AFTER SURGERY:

1. You may stay over-night in the hospital with a head dressing. After surgery it is best for you to keep your head elevated by sitting in a recliner or in bed with on 2 pillows under the head.
2. After the dressings are removed they will be cleaned and then yellow gauze and a gentle compression dressing applied. You may apply ice dressing to your face or areas of swelling but avoid ice bags or direct pressure to the ears. .
3. Do not be alarmed if you continue to swell after the first 24 hours. **Swelling reaches its peak at 48-72 hours. It will also continue around the ears for months.**
4. If you have pain, take the pain medication every 4-6 hours. It is best to take pain medication with crackers, jello, etc. If you have no pain, do not take the medication. Alcohol and pain medicine should not be taken together.
5. A light diet is best for the day of surgery. Begin taking liquids slowly. You can start a soft regular diet the next day. For 2 weeks avoid foods that require excess lip movement, ie., apples, corn on the cob, etc.
6. You should expect bloody ear discharge for 2-4 days so change the pads around the ear as instructed at least once a day. Do not rub or blot your ears aggressively, as this will tend to irritate it.
7. Keep your head strictly elevated for at least 48 hours after surgery and for 5-7 days at night. If significant swelling or bleeding occurs notify the physician.
8. Remove outer head wrap the day after surgery. Dr. Lowe or his staff may remove the dressing at the hospital or his office. After the outer dressing is removed replace underlying dressing as instructed and apply a new compressive head band.
9. After 48 hours you may take a shower and gently clean off old blood and debris. Avoid direct pressure from the shower head to the ears for at least 2 weeks.
10. Gently clean behind the ears and any stitches clean by using a Q-tip saturated with hydrogen peroxide followed by a thin coating of Vaseline ointment. This will help prevent crusts from forming. You may advance the Q-tip into the ears slightly as far as the cotton on the Q-tip but no further.
11. Dress ears with gauze and wear head band for 5-7 days as instructed. Irrigate inner ear if occluded with over-the-counter ear drops for wax when indicated.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. The head dressing will be removed the day after surgery in most cases. The compression dressing will be worn for 5-7 days after the surgery.
2. After 48 hours the ears can be washed gently with a bland soap. Vaseline should be used for the first week and then moisturizing creams after 7 days if the ears are dry. Avoid over moisturizing the skin particularly behind the ears.
3. The ears will feel numb after ear surgery and occasionally the neck will feel “funny”. These feelings will gradually disappear.
4. Most of the swelling will be gone by 6 weeks. It will usually take about a year for the last 10% of the swelling to disappear. Your ears may feel stiff, and not as flexible as before surgery. This is rarely noticeable to others and will gradually return to normal. Absolute symmetry is not possible after bilateral ear surgery.
5. Strenuous activity/heavy lifting of objects greater than 15 lbs should be avoided for 2-3 weeks.
6. All incisions will be extremely sensitive to sunlight during the healing phase. Direct sun contact is to be avoided and use a sunscreen with SPF 20 or greater for at least 6 months applied after 2 weeks.
7. Please take all medication carefully and as directed.
8. If you have nausea, vomiting, rash, shortness of breath, or diarrhea after taking your medications, please call the office.
9. If you develop a fever (oral temperature greater than 101), redness or increased pain at the surgical incisions, please call us immediately.