

Forehead Lift (Classic Lift, Endoscopic Lift) Post-Operative Instructions

What are my post-operative instructions?

- Have someone drive you home after surgery and help you at home for 1-2 days.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Plan on taking it easy for at least the first week.
- Follow balanced diet.
- Decreased activity may promote constipation, so you may want to add more raw fruit to your diet, and be sure to increase fluid intake.
- Take pain medication as prescribed. Do not take aspirin or any products containing aspirin until approved by your surgeon.
- Do not drink alcohol when taking pain medications.
- Even when not taking pain medications, no alcohol for 3 weeks as it causes fluid retention.
- If you are taking vitamins with iron, resume these as tolerated.
- Do not smoke, as smoking delays healing and increases the risk of complications.

What should my activity level be?

- Start walking as soon as possible, this helps to reduce swelling and lowers the chance of blood clots.
- Do not drive until you are no longer taking any pain medications (narcotics).
- Back to work or school in 7-10 days, usually sooner for endoscopic patients.
- Limit vigorous physical activity for several weeks; i.e., heavy housework,

sex, bending or any activity that increases your blood pressure.

- Full social activities can usually be resumed in 2 weeks.

How do I take care of my incision?

- If a drainage tube(s) has been placed, you may shower 48 hours after removal.
- Avoid exposing scars to sun for at least 12 months.
- Limit exposure to heat or sun for several months.
- Always use a strong sunblock, if sun exposure is unavoidable (SPF 30 or greater).
- Keep steri-strips on.
- Keep incisions clean and inspect daily for signs of infection.
- Shower and shampoo in 2 days or as soon as bandage is removed. Gentle cleansing around sutures in hair line when shampooing.
- When using hair dryer, never set temperature on “hot”, as you may not have feeling in operated area.
- Hair bleach or permanent can be applied after complete healing, usually 3-4 weeks.
- Facial makeup can be applied to cover up bruising 3 days after surgery, but not on the incisions.

Classic Lift:

- Keep your head elevated for 2-3 days after surgery to help keep the swelling down.

How should I expect to feel?

- May feel tired and let down at first.
- Temporary discomfort, tightness of skin, swelling, bruising, numbness and headaches.
- Full recovery from bruising in 2-3 weeks.

Classic Lift:

- Swelling may affect cheeks and eyes for a week or so.

- As nerves heal, itching may replace numbness on top of scalp -- May last up to 6 months.
- Possible hair loss.

Endoscopic Lift:

- Minimal postoperative pain.
- As nerves heal, itching may replace numbness on top of scalp, but there is less of an itching sensation with the endoscopic forehead lift.

What will it look like?

- Younger, more rested look.
- Final results realized in approximately 6 months.
- Visible signs of surgery should fade completely in approximately 3 weeks.

Classic Lift:

- Normal growth of hair around incision usually resumes in a few weeks or months.

What follow-up care will I receive?

Classic Lift:

- Most stitches or clips are removed within 14 days, sometimes in 2 stages.
- If bandages were used, they will be removed in 1-2 days.

Endoscopic Lift:

- Stitches or staples used to close the incisions are usually removed within a week.

When should I call my doctor?

- If you have increased swelling or bruising.
- If swelling and redness persist after a few days.
- If you have increased redness along the incision.
- If you have severe or increased pain not relieved by medication.
- If you have any side effects to medications; such as, rash, nausea, headache, vomiting.

- If you have an oral temperature over 100.4 degrees.
- If you have any yellowish or greenish drainage from the incisions or notice a foul odor.
- If you have bleeding from the incisions that is difficult to control with light pressure.
- If you have loss of feeling or motion.

Who should I call if I have questions?

- (734) 998-6022, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- After hours and on weekends, call Hospital Paging at (734) 936-6267 and ask for the Plastic Surgeon on call.

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