

## **DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER HAVING A FACELIFT**

The 1<sup>st</sup> night:

- The dressing around your head will feel snug.
- It may be hard to chew or swallow food because of the lingering effect of the Lidocaine, so soft food and liquids are recommended.
- Your throat may be sore from the oxygen that was used during your surgery.
- Please take your TXA (Transexamic Acid) pill at 9:00PM and morning after surgery.
- Please check your blood pressure every 4 hours. If your Blood pressure is over 130, please take one of your Clonidine pills to lower it.
- Please try to minimize your intake of narcotics, as they are nauseating, constipating, and addictive.
- You may shower and wash your hair the next day after I examine you in the office. The stitches can get wet, and this will not harm them in any way.
- Please do not put any chemicals in your hair for approximately one month after surgery. This includes hair coloring and “permanent” chemicals.
- Please do not do any heavy lifting, stooping, or bending over for one week after surgery, and try to keep your head elevated. This is to prevent additional swelling. You may be more comfortable sleeping in a recliner initially at home if you have one. Sleeping on your back also helps with swelling.
- For the first five days after surgery, please cleanse all your incisions with half and half strength peroxide and water to remove any loose clots. Then apply Aquaphor to the incisions two or three times daily. This will make a finer scar.
- You should expect to have swelling of your face and neck and some bruising, especially of your neck. Sitting up or lying on your back should help this, as will the neck band, if I put you in one.
- Your cheeks and neck will be partially numb for a few weeks, which will get better with time, and your ears may hurt. You will feel tight under your jaw. All these sensations are normal and will eventually fade away with time. It will take several months for all the skin to feel normal.
- You may drive when you are no longer taking pain medications and feel comfortable enough to do so.
- Please have over-the-counter laxatives at home in case they are needed. Please do not take any medication on an empty stomach.
- Please avoid **ASPIRIN** and **IBUPROFEN** or any of the medications listed on your pre-op sheet for two weeks after your surgery, as this will increase your risk of bruising and poor healing.



- Please do not do any strenuous aerobic exercises that will increase the circulation to your head for two to three weeks, but you can go walking as soon as you feel up to it, and I encourage you to walk as soon as you are able. The best way for you to heal faster and feel better sooner is to walk every day. You can rest afterwards, but walking will keep you from losing muscle mass, prevents clots in your legs, and bring your energy level back sooner.
- Please do not apply any creams or lotions to incisions except those instructed or cleared by Dr. Blanchet. Also, do not use a heating pad or ice packs to surgical areas.
- The **Post-Facelift Band** may be placed on the day after surgery when the dressing has been removed and post-op care has been given to the surgical sites. The band reduces swelling of the lower face and should be worn as often as possible after surgery. Make sure the band goes under the chin completely and covers both ears. The Velcro closure should be at the upper rear portion of the top of your head. If you have been given two small straps, one goes across the forehead and one goes across the back of your neck. These are used to secure the large band. It's okay to wash the band should it become soiled.
- There are several post-Facelift pillows available on Amazon that you may be interested in buying instead.
- Most facelift patients will have some fat grafting from the abdomen done. Please use a gentle compression garment. For men, bike shorts may make the area less tender. Stop the compression whenever you feel it is no longer helpful with discomfort—on average three to ten days.
- **Smoking dramatically increases your risk of infection, poor healing, and bad scarring. Please refrain from smoking and vaping for 6 weeks before and after surgery.**
- Some patients experience a brief period of “let down” or depression after cosmetic surgery. Some may subconsciously have expected to feel and look better “instantly”, even though they rationally understand that this will not be the case. Patients commonly question their decision to have surgery during the first few weeks after surgery. As the healing occurs, and the swelling subsides, these thoughts usually disappear quickly. If you feel depressed, understanding that this is a “natural phase” of the healing process may help you to cope with this emotional state.
- **WE REQUEST THAT YOU PICK UP YOUR MEDICATIONS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR SURGERY DATE; ADDITIONALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REVIEW THE MEDICATIONS AND DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS WITH YOUR CAREGIVER.**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL DR. BLANCHET IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. IF YOUR CONCERN IS URGENT, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (804) 320-8545. **IN A TRUE EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911.**

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PATIENT'S SIGNATURE

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DATE

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CAREGIVER'S SIGNATURE

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DATE