

Facial Fracture Post-Operative Discharge Instructions

Diet:

Resume your regular diet. Start slow and bland (crackers, toast), then work up to normal foods.

A higher protein intake is recommended to help your body heal. Consider adding protein bars, powder, or shakes to your daily intake.

It is important to drink plenty of fluids so that you do not become dehydrated.

If you have any pain or soreness in your jaws with chewing, stick to soft foods only (yogurt, pudding, applesauce, cottage cheese, eggs, well cooked pasta, etc.) or anything that can be blended.

Wound Care:

If you have incisions inside your mouth:

It is very important after each meal/snack to rinse with water, then swish Peridex mouth rinse around for 30 seconds and spit out. This will help clean your teeth and decrease infection risks.

No brushing your teeth until specifically cleared by your surgeon as the lining of your mouth that is sutured closed is very fragile.

It is okay to remove other bandages and shower in 48 hours with indirect water onto your incision (soap and water can lightly run over area, but do not soak area or submerge under water). After your shower, pat area dry and apply antibiotic ointment to the incisions/repair sites 2-3 times daily for one week. Cover with band aid or other non-stick pad (telfa) and tape if desired

Leave dressings in place until follow-up

Leave any steri-strips (white or brown tape) in place until they fall off on their own. It is okay to trim any edges that start to peel up.

You have dissolvable sutures under your skin and medical skin glue on top. Leave this in place until it falls off on its own. This usually takes 1-3 weeks.

Do NOT smoke or use tobacco products. It WILL impair your healing and increase your complications.

Activity:

No strenuous activity or straining until cleared by Dr. Geiger at follow-up.

Do not lift anything heavier than 5-10 pounds (a gallon of milk).

Avoid activities that may risk injury to your surgical site.

No driving while taking narcotic pain medications.

Keep head elevated above your shoulders at all times for next 3 days.

Medications: See Patient Visit Summary for list of medications. Take all of your antibiotic(s) if prescribed. Avoid Aspirin and NSAIDs (motrin, advil, ibuprofen, aleve) for the first week after surgery, then okay to start taking.

Pain medication: You may be prescribed Percocet or Norco for postoperative pain unless allergic or intolerant.

Antibiotic: You may or may not have an antibiotic prescribed

If you are taking narcotic pain medications you may experience some constipation. Drink plenty of water and eat plenty of fiber in your diet. Consider a fiber supplement such as Metamucil®, FiberCon®, or Citrucel®. It is okay to take over the counter stool softeners once or twice daily such as Docusate or Colace® found at your local drug store.

Follow up: Dr. Geiger in 7-10 days. Call office for specific appointment date and time if you do not already have one.

Office contact number: 314-205-6420

Other Instructions:

Should you experience any of these symptoms call the office:

- Fever of 102 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Persistent pain, nausea, or vomiting.
- Persistent bleeding.
- Shortness of breath.
- Significant redness or drainage from your incision.
- Significant leg swelling or calf pain
- Any other questions or concerns.

During business hours (8am – 5pm) call:

Chesterfield Plastic Surgery Office: 314-205-6420

On nights or weekends call:

Hospital exchange: 314-364-4176

Seek immediate medical care (ER or call 911) if:

You have difficulty breathing.

You feel like your airway is closing or hear a high-pitched sound when you try and breathe.

General Postsurgical Instructions

You may expect to feel dizzy, weak, and drowsy for as long as 24 hours after receiving the medicine that made you sleep (*anesthetic*). The following information pertains to your recovery period for the first 24 hours following surgery.

Do not drive a car, ride a bicycle, participate in physical activities, or take public transportation until you are done taking narcotic pain medicines or as directed by your caregiver.

Do not drink alcohol or take tranquilizers.

Do not take medicine that has not been prescribed by your caregiver.

Do not sign important papers or make important decisions while on narcotic pain medicines.

Have a responsible person with you.