

WESTCOUNTRY Patient Information for :

PLASTIC SURGEONS
of Washington University

BRACHIOPLASTY
“ARM LIFT”



Dr. Terence Myckatyn &
Dr. Marissa Tenenbaum

Surgery Scheduling Secretary/Dr. Tenenbaum – Carol – 314-996-3040
Surgery Scheduling Secretary/Dr. Myckatyn – Michelle – 314-996-3028
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Nursing Staff – 314-996-3201
Marilyn Bennett and Patty McCune

OR DAY/TIME: _____ PLACE: _____ ARRIVAL TIME: _____

During office hours, questions can be answered by our office staff at 314-996-8800. During off hours, please call Barnes hospital at 314-362-5000 and ask for the “Plastic Surgery Resident on call.”

Please note that our website (www.westcountyplasticsurgeons.wustl.edu) has detailed descriptions of most procedures. This form is available from our website by navigating to: Patient Resources > Patient Forms.

BEFORE SURGERY

SIX WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:

1. **Smoking affects healing.** Please **stop smoking or ANY nicotine products for at least 6 weeks before surgery and one month after.** If needed, we can prescribe Chantix to help you quit.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:

1. Some medications can interfere with anesthesia and cause undesirable side effects that could affect your surgery. Please read over the enclosed **“Medication and Supplement Alert List”** and let us know if you take any of them. Aspirin should not be taken 2 weeks before or after surgery. Tylenol is a good medicine to take for any aches or pains you may have prior to your surgery.

2. If you develop a cold, facial sore, or any other illness prior to surgery, please notify us.
3. 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 surgery and to stay with you for the first 24 hours.

EVENING BEFORE SURGERY:

1. Have some jello and/or soup available for after surgery. Stock the freezer/cupboards with easy meals so you don't have to shop or cook for a few days.
2. Get a good night's rest.
3. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight if your surgery is scheduled before noon. Never eat or drink anything at all for at least 8 hours prior to surgery.

DAY OF SURGERY

Arrive at the 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. **DO NOT SMOKE.**
2. Do not wear contact lenses, wigs, hairpins, hairpieces or jewelry. Dress in old, loose, comfortable clothes overtop. Do not wear pullover tops or pantyhose. Remove all body piercing jewelry from all locations. Wear slip-on shoes.
3. Have someone drive you to your surgery and make certain someone 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.

AFTER SURGERY

1. **Blood Clot Prevention.** To reduce the risk of blood clots after surgery you may be treated with a drug called *Lovanox*. This drug, also known as *low molecular weight heparin* is injected under the skin of the abdomen daily for at least 5 days after surgery. Before the operation is performed, and while you are in the hospital, you will also have specialized stockings on your lower legs that intermittently massage your ankles. These also reduce the risks of blood clots.
2. **Arm wraps.** Your arms will be wrapped in ACE bandages from the hands to the armpits to reduce swelling, bruising, and fluid accumulation. Ideally, you should wear the arm wraps all of the time, except showering, for 4 weeks, and then for 12 hours a day (while sleeping and at home) for another 4 weeks. The wraps should start at the hand, and then progress to the armpit. The ACE wrap should be tighter at the hands and then slightly looser as the wrap progresses to the armpit.
3. **Diet.** A light diet is best for the rest of the day after surgery. Begin by taking liquids slowly and progress to soups or jello. You may start a regular diet the next day. Please be sure to consume a diet rich in protein after surgery. This will encourage wound healing.

4. **Pain Control after Surgery.** If you have pain or discomfort, take the pain medication every 4 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 medication should not be taken together.
5. **Drains** will be used to draw off any accumulating fluid after surgery. The bulb should be kept collapsed at all times. The fluid will need to be removed when the drain is no longer collapsed. Please keep a record of how much fluid is emptied from the bulb **in milliliters** over a 24 hour (day) period. Bring this daily record with you to the office appointment. Drains usually stay for 1 to 2 weeks after surgery. The drains will be removed when they have drained less than 30 milliliters within a 24 hour period.
6. **Incisions.** The wounds have likely been sealed with Dermabond or superglue so no wound care except gentle cleaning in the shower is required. Do not use ointment over Dermabond glue.
7. **Showering.** You may shower 48 hours after surgery. The incisions can get soapy and wet, but avoid applying full showerhead pressure to them. Avoid submerging under water in a tub or pool.
8. **Dressings and Tape.** If supportive steri-strips or tape are used for your surgery, please continue to wear this until your first follow-up visit. Your doctor will remove this when appropriate. If it comes off in the meantime, please contact our office but do not replace it yourself.

OTHER POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. You may gradually resume normal daily activities after 48 hours, being careful to avoid any activity that causes pain or discomfort. Strenuous activities and exercises are to be avoided until 4-6 weeks after surgery. At that point, you may perform non-impact aerobics like the elliptical, stairmaster, arc trainer, or stationary bike. Running, impact aerobics, and light upper body work can start at 6 weeks depending on your comfort level and the extent of your surgery. Do not exceed lifting 10 lbs with your upper body for at least 6 weeks. If it hurts, back off. Start slow and progress as tolerated. Call your doctor if you have any questions.
2. Driving may be resumed when a sharp turn of the steering wheel will not cause pain and when you are off regular narcotic pain medicine.
3. Bruising and swelling are normal. This will disappear with time.
4. Unusual sensations like swelling, numbness, itching, and burning are common during the healing process. These sensations may last several months and will gradually disappear.

5. Wound healing problems and scar widening are more common with brachioplasty than other types of plastic surgery. Sutures may spit, and look somewhat like a pimple. The edges of the wound may separate slightly – this is most common in the center of your incision. Local wound care, as instructed by your surgeon, or additional scar care like silicone gels or sheets may be recommended by your surgeon during follow-up visits.
6. If you have any questions, sudden onset of extreme pain, fever, or redness, please call Dr. Myckatyn or Dr. Tenenbaum's office at (314) 996-8800.

RETURNING TO WORK:

1. Working from home : 3 to 4 weeks
2. Desk job : 3 days to 4 weeks
3. Up on your feet a lot : 4 weeks
4. Manual labor : 6 weeks

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Strenuous activity/heavy lifting of objects greater than 10 lbs should be avoided for 6 weeks.
2. All incisions will be extremely sensitive to sunlight for one year. Direct sun contact is to be avoided and use a sunscreen with SPF 30 or greater for the first 6 months and at least SPF 15 for the next 6 months. Excellent sunscreen options are offered through our various skin care lines.
3. Please take all medication carefully and as directed.
4. If you have nausea, vomiting, rash, shortness of breath, or diarrhea after taking your medications, please call the office.
5. If you develop a fever (oral temperature greater than 101), redness or increased pain at the surgical incisions, please call us immediately.

FOLLOW-UP (return visits):

Follow-up after surgery varies based on the extent of the procedure, any pre-existing health conditions you may have, how far away you live, and in the unusual event where there is a complication.

For many patients follow-up includes:

- a) Follow-up with registered nurse or physician's assistant at 2-5 days to address any minor questions or concerns
- b) physician follow-ups at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 3-6 months and to address any concerns

PRESCRIPTIONS:

We will try to provide you with prescriptions for medicines prior to your surgical procedure. Usually this will include a pain medicine and an antibiotic. Lovanox may be used to reduce your risk of a blood clot for at least 5 days after surgery.

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