

1020 N MASON RD STE #110 SAINT LOUIS MO 63141

Office of Dr. Terence Myckatyn & Dr. Marissa Tenenbaum

Surgery Scheduling Assistant for Dr. Tenenbaum	Carol – 314-996-3040
Surgery Scheduling Assistant for Dr. Myckatyn	Michelle - 314-996-3028
Cosmetic Patient Concierge	Kristi – 314-996-8133
West County Plastic Surgeons Nursing Line	314-996-3201
General Questions and Office Appointments	Front Desk – 314-996-8800 Option 2

Surgery DAY/TIME: _____ PLACE: _____ ARRIVAL TIME: _____

During office hours, questions can be answered by our office staff at **314-996-8800**.

After hours, please call Central Page for the Plastic Surgery Resident ON CALL at **314-362-1242**

Please note that our website (www.westcountyplasticsurgeons.wustl.edu) has detailed descriptions of most procedures.

DIEP/SIEA/Free TRAM Breast Reconstruction

SIX WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY

1. **Smoking affects healing.** Please **stop smoking or ANY nicotine products for as long as possible before and after surgery.** If needed, we can prescribe Chantix to help you quit. Our office may perform a **urine nicotine test** at any time before your surgery to confirm that you have quit smoking.

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, urinary tract infection, fever or any other illness prior to surgery, please notify us.

EVENING BEFORE SURGERY

1. Drink 24 oz of a clear carbohydrate beverage (Gatorade/power aid) or water
2. Eat a late dinner of your choosing
3. Have some jello and/or soup available for after surgery.
4. Get a good night's rest.

MORNING OF SURGERY

1. Drink 12 oz of water BEFORE 5 AM. – *Only drink water*
2. Do not wear contact lenses, wigs, hairpins, hairpieces or jewelry. Dress in old, loose, comfortable clothes. 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. A vehicle that allows you to recline is best.
4. When in the hospital, you will be given the following oral medicines (we will give these to you at the hospital – there is no need to obtain or take these beforehand). These are: Tylenol, Gabapentin, Celecoxib, and Oxycontin.
5. You will receive a paravertebral block prior to surgery. This is administered by the anesthesia team and is designed to numb the nerves in the chest area to reduce pain during surgery.
6. DO NOT SMOKE

AFTER SURGERY

HOSPITAL CARE AFTER SURGERY:

- **Diet.** You will not be allowed to eat for several hours after your surgery. This is because we carefully monitor your microvascular surgery and need to be able to go back to the operating room quickly if additional surgery is required. Your diet will be slowly advanced with clear fluids and then light foods. Please be sure to consume a diet rich in protein once you are discharged home after surgery. This will encourage wound healing and may reduce your risk of post-operative seromas (collections of fluid that your drain tubes otherwise have to deal with).
- **Blood Clot Prevention.** To reduce the risk of blood clots after surgery you will be treated with a drug called *Lovenox*. 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. You will also have specialized stockings on your lower legs that intermittently massage your ankles. These also reduce the risks of blood clots.

- **Improving Circulation in Your Reconstruction.** To improve blood flow to your reconstruction you may receive **Aspirin**. You may stop your Aspirin to avoid increasing the risk of bleeding should you require other surgeries during that year. Typically, we recommend that you stop the Aspirin for 2 weeks prior to a surgical procedure and for 1 week after, but this can depend on the type of procedure you are having. Consult with both our office and the surgeon performing another surgery to specifically direct you when to stop and start your Aspirin.

A **warm environment** can help dilate blood vessels and improve circulation to your reconstruction. Your **hospital room will be kept quite warm after surgery**. Additional warming pads or blankets may be kept near your reconstruction as well to help warm it and improve circulation.

The nursing staff will carefully monitor circulation to your reconstruction. This can be as frequent as every hour for the first few days, and then less frequently. To monitor circulation, a number of methods may be used. They will check if the reconstruction is warm, if it “pinks up” when it is touched, and they may listen to blood flow with a device called a **doppler** that is pressed against the reconstruction at specific locations. Occasionally, a machine called an **implantable Doppler** that has a tiny monitor directly attached to the reconstructed vessels may be used to listen to blood flow. Other times a sensor is placed on the skin (Vioptix) while in hospital that enables us to continuously monitor the status of blood flow to your reconstruction remotely.

Reduced circulation to the flap may compromise the survival of parts of the flap (called **fat necrosis**) or all of the flap (**complete flap loss**). Reoperation, certain medicines, medicinal leeches, or other interventions may, but are not guaranteed to, improve the chances of minimizing flap loss.

- **Pain Control after Surgery.** You are given an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery or ERAS protocol. This is a protocol that incorporates best medical practices to optimize your comfort and speed up recovery. The ERAS protocol may include :
 - **Paravertebral block – administered by the anesthesia team to numb the chest area**
 - Transversus abdominis plain (TAP) block – administered by plastic surgeon to numb the abdominal wall
 - Celecoxib (Celebrex) – a selective cox-2 inhibitor, this is an anti-inflammatory medicine
 - Gabapentin (Neurontin) – this medicine dulls nerve-related pain
 - Oxycontin – narcotic medicine for pain control
 - Acetaminophen (Tylenol) – for pain control
 - Hydromorphone (Morphine) – for pain control when oral medicines are not enough
 - Zofran – a powerful anti-nausea medicine
 - Colace – a stool softener to prevent constipation due to the narcotic medicines

We will monitor your pain scores after surgery to personalize your recovery plan.

- **Preventing Infections after Surgery.** A limited course of antibiotics are typically prescribed after surgery. The type of antibiotic depends on several factors including which allergies you have.

- **Preventing Fevers after Surgery.** Deep breathing helps keep your lungs inflated and prevent fevers after surgery. When flap tissue is taken from your abdomen, post-operative pain can make it hard to take deep breaths but it's important to do it anyway. To help coach you to take big breaths you will be provided with an *incentive spirometer*. This device has a mouthpiece attached to a hose that you take big breaths into. It shows you how big a breath you are taking and provides you with direct visual feedback to see how you are doing and to motivate and remind you to continue to take big breaths.
- **Blood Transfusions after Surgery.** On occasion, blood transfusions are required to restore your blood counts following microvascular breast reconstruction surgery. The decision to transfuse you is made when the risk of a blood transfusion (allergic reaction, or the very low risk of transmission of an infection) is outweighed by the risks of having a blood count that is too low (stress on the heart, kidneys, and brain).
- **Drains** are used to draw off any accumulating fluid after surgery. The bulb should be kept collapsed at all times. There will be two drains in the abdomen and one or two drains per reconstructed breast. The fluid will need to be removed when the drain is no longer collapsed. Please keep a record of *when* and *how much* fluid is emptied from the bulb in *milliliters*. Record the output from each drain separately. Bring this record with you to any office appointment where you still have drains. Usually, drains are removed when they make less than 30 cc within a 24 hour period. On average, they will stay in for 2-3 weeks.

Drains may be cumbersome. To avoid having them dangle or tug you may wish to purchase a "fanny pack" that is worn round the waist and can function as a receptacle for your drains or a belt to which you can safety pin your drains.

We may use an antiseptic-impregnated disk or "biopatch" around your drain where it exits the skin to reduce bacterial contamination.

- **Wound Glue.** The wounds may be sealed with a surgical glue. No wound care except cleaning is required. Do not use ointment over surgical glue as it will dissolve the glue.
- **Showering.** You may shower as soon as you are discharged home. The incisions can get soapy and wet, but avoid soaking them or applying full showerhead pressure to them.
- **Bras.** Your surgeon may or may not apply a bra immediately after surgery and will inform you once its okay to wear a surgical bra. Please avoid wearing underwire bras until approved by your surgeon.
- **Arm activity.** Do not put any pressure on your armpit or the top of your chest as this may compromise blood flow to your breast reconstruction. Once you are instructed by your surgeon you may begin gentle range of motion exercises with your arm on the side of your reconstruction. This can include making small and then progressively larger circles by rotating your arm at the shoulder and then walking your hand up and down a wall with your elbow straight and only moving your shoulder joint.
- **Abdominal binder.** You will be given an abdominal binder to take pressure off of your abdomen. We will request that you wear that as much as possible for at least 6 week.

OTHER POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. You may gradually resume normal daily activities once you are discharged home, being careful to avoid any activity that causes pain or discomfort. Strenuous or sexual activities and exercises are to be avoided for 4 to 6 weeks – your doctor will guide you on when to advance your activity. If it hurts, back off. Start slow and progress as tolerated.
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 numbness, sharpness, and burning are common during the healing process. These sensations may last several weeks to months and will gradually disappear.
5. **If you have any questions, sudden onset of extreme pain, fever, or redness, or a new wound, please call Dr. Myckatyn or Dr. Tenenbaum's office at 314-996-8800.** After hours you can reach the plastic surgery resident on call at 314-362-1242 and let the physician know you are Dr. Myckatyn's or Dr. Tenenbaum's patient.

RETURNING TO WORK:

1. Working from home : 4 weeks
2. Desk job : 4 to 6 weeks
3. Up on your feet a lot : 6 to 8 weeks
4. Manual labor : 8 to 10 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:

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 within 5 to 14 days with our Nurses to pull drains, check wounds, and to address any minor questions or concerns
- b) Physician follow-up at 3 weeks, and per physician discretion thereafter.