



UTAH FACIAL PLASTICS

Transformation you can Trust

PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-OFFICE FAT GRAFTING

3-4 WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:

- *Smoking.* Tobacco, cigarettes, and nicotine consumption will cause poor wound healing, longer healing times, and excessive scarring. You must discontinue these products more than 4 weeks prior to surgery. Otherwise, the surgery will be cancelled.

2 WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:

- **DIET/SUPPLEMENT RESTRICTIONS:** Avoid foods, drinks and herbal supplements that can increase risk of bleeding and bruising. Avoid aspirin, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Motrin, blood thinners, vitamin E, omega-3, fish oil, and alcohol. Use Tylenol in place of other over-the-counter pain medications. Stop all alcohol use.
- *Vitamin C.* Begin taking 1000 – 3000mg per day as tolerated 2 weeks. Vitamin C aids in wound healing.
- *Post surgery.* If your destination after surgery is more than 60 minutes from the office, you must make arrangements to stay locally.

1 WEEK BEFORE SURGERY:

- *Review Instructions with Caregiver.* Confirm who will be driving you to and from surgery and stay with you for at least 24 hours after surgery. Caregivers must be over 18 years of age.
- *Alcohol.* Do not drink alcohol 1 week before and after surgery. Alcohol consumption may raise the blood pressure and initiate bleeding.
- *False eyelashes.* Have any false lashes removed, including extensions or strip lashes. Fake lashes tend to grip tightly to the adhesive put over your eyes during your surgery.

NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY:

- *Arrival time.* Our office will call the day before surgery with the arrival time. If you don't receive a call or for further questions, call the appropriate number below:
 - Utah Facial Plastics: (801)-776-2220
- *Shower.* The night or morning of surgery, take a shower and wash your hair. This will help reduce the risk of infection by eliminating bacteria. Arrive on the day of the procedure with a clean face.
- *Set Up Home Recovery Area.* This may include pillows, blankets, books, television, and anything else to assist with a comfortable recovery. Make sure commonly used items are moved to this area where they are easily accessible and within reach.

DAY OF SURGERY:

- *Eat and drink* as normal. Do **NOT** have any caffeine.
- *Dress Comfortably.* Dress in comfortable, clean, and loose-fitting clothes. Shirts that can be buttoned or zipped up are preferred.
- Do NOT wear any makeup, jewelry, cosmetic creams, hair products, sunscreen, remove all piercings and jewelry.

- *Contact lenses.* Do not wear contact lenses. Remember to bring your glasses to sign the necessary paperwork.

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-OFFICE FAT GRAFTING

24 HOURS POST SURGERY:

- *Donor Site Dressing.* A dressing may be placed around the donor area. If it is, keep this dressing dry and remove after 2 days. You will have steri-strips placed over the sutures that can be removed after 3 days. The sutures are absorbable in these areas and will need a light coat of antibiotic ointment, applied twice daily, to breakdown. No further wound care is necessary.
- **NO Cold Compress.** Following surgery, cold compresses may NOT be used. Cold temperatures tend to decrease the chance of survival of the fat that was grafted.
- *Head Elevation.* Sleep on your back with your head elevated about 30-40 degrees (2-3 pillows). Do not sleep on your side. Placing a pillow under your knees may help you from turning in your sleep. Head elevation helps to minimize swelling. Continue this for 1 week depending on swelling.

MEDICATIONS:

- *Pain Medication.* You will be prescribed pain medication for post-operative pain control. If your discomfort after surgery is not strong you are welcome to take Extra-strength Tylenol in place of the prescribed medication. Do not take Tylenol with the pain medication, as most often the medication you are prescribed will have Tylenol in it. **Do not exceed 3,000mg of Tylenol in a 24-hour period.** Take medication with food to minimize the risk of nausea.
- *Constipation.* Sometimes decreased physical activity as well as pain medications may lead to constipation. Any over the counter stool softener such as Metamucil or Colace can be used. Start laxatives with the narcotic pain medications to prevent constipation from occurring.
- *Nausea.* Some pain medication may make you feel nausea. It is best to eat something small 20 minutes before taking pain medication. Keep hydrated with small sips of non-caffeinated beverages (ginger ale, Sprite, Gatorade).
- *Medication to Avoid.* Avoid medications containing aspirin or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, Naproxen, etc.) for two weeks before and after surgery. These medications may increase bleeding.
- *Substances to Avoid.* Avoid alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine, for these will dramatically slow the healing process.

ACTIVITY:

- *Movement is Important.* Make sure you are up and walking around immediately after surgery. When lying down in bed or on the couch, make sure you are moving your legs and ankles. Absolutely no bending, lifting, or straining.
- *Driving.* Do NOT operate a vehicle or make important decisions until you have been off pain medications for 24 hours. Use good judgment.
- *Return to work.* Returning to work depends on the amount of physical activity and public contact your job involves and the amount of swelling and discoloration you develop; the average patient may return to work or go out socially 5 – 7 days after surgery. There is some individual variation regarding the time one returns to work
- *Physical Activity.* Avoid bending, lifting, straining and aerobic activities for 3 weeks or until you've been cleared by your surgeon. Avoid hitting or bumping your face and neck.

- *Exercise.* Exercise may not be resumed for 3 weeks post-op or as further instructed by your surgeon. When cleared, you must start easily and build back up to your previous exercise levels. Strenuous activity should be avoided for 6 weeks. Resuming exercise may worsen swelling.
- *Smoking.* Smoking should be strictly avoided as it interferes with the blood supply to the tissues and slows and hinders the healing process.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- *Swelling and Discoloration.* Swelling and bruising of the surrounding tissues can be expected. Swelling and bruising may worsen on the second and third day after surgery. It's not unusual for one side of the face to be more swollen than the other. This is temporary and will improve over the course of the next 2 weeks.
- *Bleeding.* Some mild bleeding is not unusual at the incision sites the first few days after surgery. If you try to do strenuous activity, sneezing, heavy lifting or bending forward, aggravated bleeding and swelling may occur.
- *Weak or Dizzy.* You may experience some weakness or dizziness. This may be more evident if you try to stand up too quickly. Take a minute to go from lying down to standing. The sensation of feeling lightheaded will get better in a few days. Make sure to drink plenty of fluids.
- *Depression.* You may experience a period of mild depression after cosmetic surgery. This is related to the shock of seeing your face swollen and discolored. Remember this is temporary and once the healing process is completed you will begin to enjoy the results of your surgery. Try not to compare your recovery with others – everyone heals in their own way.
- *Final Result.* Expect to see your final results between 4 – 6 months as the healing process takes time.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS – WHEN TO CALL THE OFFICE OR GO TO THE HOSPITAL:

- *Signs of Infection.* Spreading redness, worsening swelling, increased drainage or drainage of pus, worsening pain, and warmth at incision site. Temperature over 101 degrees Fahrenheit.
- *Medication Reactions.* If you develop hives, rashes or itching you may be having a medication allergic reaction.
- *Other Emergency Situations.* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chest pain, lightheadedness that does not quickly resolve, severe vomiting, pain, or asymmetric swelling in your legs.

Utah Facial Plastics – (801) 776-2220

Our office number connects to our 24-hour answering service after hours.

APPOINTMENT TYPE	DATE / TIME	LOCATION	PHYSICIAN/STAFF
Surgery: <i>Time TBD day before</i>			
Follow Up: <i>3 weeks after</i>			

