



LAWRENCE M. KOPLIN, M.D., F.A.C.S.
— AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY —

BREAST IMPLANT REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

(310) 277-3223

BEFORE SURGERY

1. **ASPIRIN**: **AVOID TAKING ASPRIN, IBUPROFEN, OR ASPIRIN-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE AND AFTER SURGERY.** Be careful; many medications sold over the counter contain small amounts of aspirin. Aspirin interferes with coagulation and can cause excessive bruising or bleeding after the operation. Please read the document “Medications to Avoid Before and After Surgery”.
2. **ALCOHOL**: Avoid drinking alcohol for 48 hours before surgery. Alcohol interferes with some of the medications that are given during and after surgery.
3. **SMOKING**: Smoking is **absolutely not permitted** for at least **TWO MONTHS** before or after surgery; if this seems unusually cruel and unfair, please discuss with me personally; **it is that important!** Even the use of a **Nicotine patch** or **Nicorette gum** is not desirable during the month prior to your surgery.
4. **SUN EXPOSURE**: Do not burn or tan your breasts for **two weeks** before surgery.
5. **SKIN CARE**: Continue your regular skin care routine. Do not wear makeup or body lotion on the day of surgery.
6. **MEDICATIONS**: Continue to take your routine medications until the day of surgery. Please check with the office to determine if these medications should be taken the morning of surgery.
7. **ATTIRE**: Wear a comfortable, loose-fitting shirt or warm-up suit that buttons or zips. Do not wear any panty hose or high-heeled shoes.
8. **VALUABLES**: The Surgical Facility is not responsible for any valuables; therefore, we suggest you remove all types of jewelry and leave them at home. Please do not bring a purse on the day of surgery, but bring a credit card so we may call in any necessary prescriptions or if you are staying at an after care facility.
9. **ANESTHESIA**: Our anesthesia provider will be calling you on the evening prior to surgery. Patients find it a good opportunity to chat and ask questions regarding their anesthesia, and tend to be more relaxed the following morning. Please try to be home to receive the phone call; if not, let us know where you might be reached.
10. **ILLNESS**: If you become ill or develop any signs of infection on your chest, **please notify the office at once.**

11. **DIET: DO NOT EAT OR DRINK AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR SURGERY**

AFTER SURGERY

1. **ACTIVITY:** When you arrive home, make yourself comfortable and relax for the remainder of the afternoon and evening. Feel free to move around, but avoid heavy exertion. You may feel slightly drowsy. If so, have someone help you when getting up for meals or to use the bathroom. Sleep on your back or side. You may sleep on your stomach when it is comfortable for you.
2. **DIET:** If you are hungry, begin with cool, clear liquids, a small amount at a time. When this is well tolerated, advance to a soft, then regular diet as desired.
3. **DRESSING:** You will be placed in a surgical elastic bra, covered by a soft, bulky wrap. The bandages may feel tight, as they are designed to minimize bruising and swelling. After the bandages are removed, the bra should be worn continuously for at least **one week**. You may then go without a bra except when exercising.
4. **DRAINS:** A small drain, which is a narrow plastic tube, will be placed in each breast following surgery. The drains dramatically reduce the amount of postoperative bruising and swelling, and are normally removed about **seven days** after surgery.
5. **BREAST MASSAGE:** Breast massage may be necessary following surgery, depending on the types of implants used. We will advise you about this.
6. **HYGIENE:** You may start showering on the day after the drains are removed. Do not immerse the breasts under water (bath, sauna, Jacuzzi) for **three weeks** following surgery. You are encouraged to lift your arms and move about freely. You may therefore brush your hair or wash your face immediately after returning home.
7. **ALCOHOL AND ASPIRIN:** Do not drink alcohol for at least 48 hours after surgery. You should not consume any alcohol while you are still taking medication for pain or sleep. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing compounds for **two weeks** following surgery.
8. **MEDICATION:** Antibiotics are to be taken after surgery, and are very important to prevent infection. You will need approximately **eight day's** worth of antibiotics, to be completed the day after your drains are removed. You will also be given medication for pain and sleep. These are not necessary unless you need them, and should be only required for a few days. Resume your routine medications on the day after surgery.
9. **DRIVING:** Do not drive until instructed to do so; usually **7-10 days** after surgery. You should not drive until your arms are no longer sore, as you need to be able to turn the wheel quickly in a possible emergency. ***You may not drive while taking pain medication.***

10. **SMOKING:** No smoking for **TWO MONTHS** after surgery (no cheating!).
11. **SUN EXPOSURE:** Do not burn or tan your breasts for **three months** after surgery.
12. **EXERCISE:** Strenuous activities (running, aerobics, weight training, swimming, tennis, etc.) must be avoided for **three weeks** after surgery. You may walk after **three days** and use a stationary bike, Stairmaster, or walking treadmill after **two weeks**. A bra should be worn during all forms of exercise.

FOR ROUTINE QUESTIONS, A NURSE OR PHYSICIAN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK WITH YOU WEEKDAYS BETWEEN 9 AM AND 6 PM.

FOR EMERGENCIES, TELEPHONE ANY TIME DAY OR NIGHT.