

Pelosi Medical Center
BLEPHAROPLASTY POST-OP PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

Patient Name: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____ MR #: _____

The goal of Pelosi Medical Center is to make your surgical experience and recovery as comfortable as possible. By studying and applying the following recommendations for postoperative care and the other written and verbal information you have received from your doctor, you will play an active and essential role in your recovery process thus speeding your recuperation time.

Sedation: You will receive sedative medication and/or general anesthesia, which may make you drowsy for as long as 24 hours.

- Prior to surgery, ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY YOU FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF YOUR SURGERY APPOINTMENT.
- IF YOU LIVE ALONE, ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO STAY OVERNIGHT AFTER SURGERY
- DO NOT drive or operate machinery for 24 hours after surgery
- DO NOT drink alcoholic beverages for 24 hours after surgery
- DO NOT make major decisions, sign contracts, etc. for 24 hours after surgery.

Swelling/Discoloration: After this type of procedure, the eyelids are usually swollen and may show noticeable bruising. Most swelling usually resolves quickly over 1-2 days (more slowly if you suffer from allergies), while the discoloration will diminish more gradually over 7-10 days. You may notice that one eye will be slightly more or less swollen than the other – this is normal and is not a cause of concern. The feeling of tightness is normal.

Occasionally, swelling may cause the lower lid to become separated from the eye and may lead to incomplete eyelid closure for a few days. Both of these conditions will resolve as swelling diminishes. Tearing or eye irritation, if present, will usually resolve as swelling decreases and the eyelids close.

Some patients may experience discoloration in the whites of their eyes. This condition is painless, generally subsides within 7-10 days and will not harm your vision. The following are some recommendations directed at relieving discomfort and speeding the recovery process:

1. REST IN BED OR A CHAIR for the first 24 hours following surgery. Be sure to keep your head elevated.
2. USE YOUR EYEDROPS, if prescribed, to help ease any discomfort or irritation caused by incomplete eyelid closure.
3. AVOID HITTING OR BUMPING YOUR FACE AND NECK. It is wise not to pick up small children and you should sleep alone for one week after your operation.
4. APPLY COLD COMPRESSES (see “frozen pea packets”) as often as possible for the first 48 hours after surgery.
5. AVOID BENDING, STRAINING, HEAVY LIFTING for the first week following surgery. In addition to aggravating swelling, these activities may elevate blood pressure and start bleeding.
6. AVOID EXCESSIVE SMILING OR YAWNING for one week
7. AVOID PHYSICAL EXERCISE for 2 weeks.
8. DO NOT SMOKE AND AVOID ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION for 3 weeks after surgery. Both of these activities can significantly slow the healing process.
9. REPORT ANY SUDDEN SWELLING OR INCREASED DISCOLORATION to Dr. Pelosi immediately.
10. SLEEP IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION (preferably on your back) by elevating the head of the bed and using extra pillows for at least 1 week following surgery.
11. AVOID STRAINING DURING ELIMINATION. If you need a laxative, we recommend Correctol (your pharmacist will give it to you without a prescription). Proper diet, plenty of water and walking are strongly recommended to avoid constipation.

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Medications: You will be given antibiotic, and a prescription for pain relief. Be diligent about taking your antibiotic until completely gone. Nausea rarely occurs following blepharoplasty surgery; however, if you should experience nausea, please call us immediately. Anti-nausea medication may need to be prescribed, and although this will provide relief for the nausea, it may cause you to feel frowsy and dizzy. Use the eye drops as often as prescribed as these help to keep the eyes moist. There is little, if any, pain with blepharoplasty surgery, therefore it is recommended that prescription strength pain relievers be used sparingly, if at all.

Frozen Pea Packs: Frozen peas (from your grocer), placed in a Ziploc bag provide the simplest and most effective cold compresses to reduce swelling, discoloration and discomfort following surgery. During your waking hours, apply the pea packs to your eyes as often as possible for the first 48 hours following surgery. You may continue to use the pea packs as much as you like for up to 7 days after surgery.

Pain: As mentioned above, there is little, if any pain associated with blepharoplasty surgery. You may experience a dull ach and tightness in the eyelids, but it is very unusual to have significant, sharp pain. If cold compresses do not provide sufficient relief from the discomfort associated with blepharoplasty, take extra strength Tylenol according to package directions. Under no circumstances should ASPIRIN, MOTRIN, ALEVE, ETC. and/or any medications containing aspirin or salicylates be taken. If you are not sufficiently relieved of pain, try alternating doses of extra strength Tylenol and the pain medication prescribed by your doctor. If you have increasing eye pain or any "burning" of the eyelids, please inform your doctor.

Visual disturbances: You can expect to have very slight blurring of vision for a few days due to swelling and ointment still present in the eyes from surgery. Any progressive or one-sided decrease in vision should be reported to your doctor immediately.

Cysts: It is not uncommon for very small, white inclusion cysts to appear near the suture line in the first few weeks to a few months following surgery. These can easily be managed in the office during a postoperative visit.

Temperature: Generally, the body temperature does not rise much above 100 degrees following a surgical procedure. A rise in temperature is an appropriate part of the healing process. You should check your temperature by mouth three times per day. If you have a persistent fever above 101.5 degrees that is not relieved by Tylenol, call our office.

Bleeding: If you experience oozing or bleeding along the suture line, do not rub the areas but apply gentle pressure to the area using a sterile gauze pad followed by a cold compress. Pressure and cold compresses should be effective, however, if these measures do not stop any oozing/bleeding, please inform your doctor.

Daily wound care: Gentle cleansing of the suture line along the lower lashes and the upper eyelids should be done 2 times daily with hydrogen peroxide on a cotton swab, taking care to keep the swab on the eyelid, avoiding contact with the eyeball. Cleansing will help loosen any crusting or debris that forms. After cleansing, a small amount of Bacitracin ointment should be applied to the suture lines.

In some patients, small anti-tension adhesive strips (Steri-strips) will be placed over the sutures of the upper eyelids to support the outer corner of the eyes. Leave these and all sutures undisturbed until your doctor removes them.

Resuming Activities:

1. **WEARING GLASSES AND CONTACT LENSES.** Eyeglasses may be worn immediately. Contact lenses should not be worn until your doctor informs you that it is safe to do so. When you do resume using your contact lenses be careful not to put any tension on the suture lines when inserting the lenses.
2. **PERSONAL GROOMING.** In order to improve and speed wound healing, we recommend the following:
 - You may **SHOWER AND WASH YOUR HAIR** with Neutrogena shampoo on the second day after surgery, allowing indirect flow of warm water to wash over the wounds. (Do not let the water directly strike the wound and do not immerse or soak the wound.)
 - You may use a **BLOW DRYER** on cold setting only.
 - You may have your **HAIR WASHED AT A SALON** one week after your surgery, but do not sit under a hair dryer. Use a hand-held blow dryer on cold setting.
 - **FACE MAKEUP** may be used sparingly on the lower lids, below the sutures only 48 hours after surgery. Avoid the suture lines.
 - **EYE MAKEUP** may be applied **ONE DAY AFTER THE SUTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.**
 - **DO NOT PULL OR STRETCH THE EYELIDS** for the first 10 days following surgery.

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3. **HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES.** On your second postoperative day, you are encouraged to be up and around the house with your usual activities except those specifically outlined previously (no bending, no heavy lifting, etc). No strenuous activity.
4. **PULLOVER CLOTHING.** For 1 week following surgery, you should wear clothing that fastens either in the front or back rather than the type that must be pulled over the head.
5. **AVOID EXERCISE** for 2 weeks following surgery.
6. **AVOID PROLONGED READING AND/OR TELEVISION/COMPUTER VIEWING** for the first 2- 3 days to avoid eye fatigue.
7. **REDUCE EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT.** Following surgery your eyes may be more sensitive to bright light for a few days. Wearing sunglasses is recommended.
8. **RETURNING TO WORK AND RESUMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.** When you return to work depends on the amount of physical activity and public contact your job involves and also the amount of swelling and discoloration you develop; the average person is ready to return to work or go out socially in 5-7 days following surgery.

Scars: During the first several days following surgery, the scars will be imperceptible. They then go through a period of slight swelling and reddening, especially at the outer corners. As this subsides, the scars become virtually invisible again. This is the normal maturity process of scars. Any unevenness of the edges of the incisions or lumpiness of the scars is usually temporary and will subside with the passage of time.

Your postoperative office visit: If absorbable sutures were not used for your procedure, sutures will be removed at your first postoperative visit, generally 3-5 days AFTER YOUR SURGERY. Following suture removal, you will generally be asked to return to the office for follow-up evaluation at 1-2 weeks after surgery and again approximately 1 month postoperatively. Please arrange your schedule to accommodate these appointments, which we urge you to make immediately following surgery.

Summary:

- Do not be discouraged by swelling and discoloration. These conditions are a normal part of the blepharoplasty procedure and will subside within 2 weeks.
- Call our office at if you experience:
 - Sudden swelling or increased discoloration
 - Increase in eye pain or any "burning" of the eyelids
 - Any progressive or one-sided decrease in vision.
 - Persistent temperature above 101.5 degrees that is not relieved by Tylenol.

Your recovery and ultimate result is very important to us. Please read this handout carefully and keep it readily accessible as a reference after your surgery. If you have ANY questions or problems not addressed in this handout, please do not hesitate to contact us at our office at **(201) 858-1800**. After normal business hours or on weekends, our answering service will take your message and contact Dr. Pelosi who will then return your call.

I acknowledge that I received my post-procedure patient instructions and that they were explained to me.

Patient Signature_____
Date