

## POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### Otoplasty (Ear Pinning)

*Our goal is to ensure your safety, help you have the best possible outcome and help you feel comfortable during your recovery. Please follow these instructions on how to take care of yourself following your procedure.*

#### GOING HOME:

- After your surgery, your surgeon will check on you before you are discharged and the nursing staff will ensure you are ready to go home. Please arrange to have someone drive you home the day of your surgery. To ensure your safety, you are required to have a responsible adult stay with you for the first 24 hours after your surgery.

#### IMMEDIATELY AFTER SURGERY:

- After surgery, it is important for you to rest. While resting, please keep your head in an elevated position for your comfort and to decrease swelling. You may be most comfortable in a recliner or bed with several pillows to support you in this position.
- It is equally important that you move your body to ensure you do not get blood clots. In the days that follow, go for frequent short walks around the house to keep your body moving. Your aim should be to be up walking every waking hour of the day.
- You may experience nausea from the anesthesia following your surgery. You may wish to start with clear fluids and slowly proceed to a soft diet when you are able to do so.
- It is also very important that you stay hydrated, so please ensure you drink plenty of liquids (non-alcoholic).

#### INCISIONS:

- You will have a bandage around your head covering your ears to hold your ears in their new position. You will have gauze sutured in your ear, placed to maintain your new ear contour created during surgery. Please keep your head bandage in place until your post op visit, usually 5-7 days after your surgery. Your surgeon will remove the gauze and sutures at this time.
- You may have a shower or bath, but please ensure you do not get your head wet. It is very important that the dressings stay completely dry until your first post op visit. Once your surgeon has removed your gauze and sutures, you may shower and wash your hair. We recommend using a gentle shampoo.
- Please go over the suture lines behind the ears three times daily with hydrogen peroxide and a cotton swab (Q-tip). Once dry, you may apply Polysporin or Vaseline to the area. Keeping the area moist will aid in healing.
- Please continue to wear your headband at night to sleep for the next 6 weeks after your sutures are removed and during any activity where you should protect your ears.
- It is a good idea to protect scars from the sun (with clothing or good sunscreen) for at least 12 months to prevent burning and permanent darkening of the area.

#### SWELLING AND BRUISING:

- Expect swelling and bruising to start immediately after your surgery. It should peak over 3 to 4 days and will lessen by 2 weeks.

**PAIN:**

- It is normal to have pain and discomfort following your procedure. Please take following medication as directed:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tylenol
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ibuprofen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription Medication: <u>Celebrex (Celecoxib)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription Medication: <u>Morphine</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription Medication: <u>Antibiotic</u>

- Please take Tylenol and Celebrex (Celecoxib) as directed after your surgery. Do not wait until you are uncomfortable before taking your next dose. Maintain baseline comfort with these medications for the first few days after your surgery. If you require additional relief after taking Tylenol and Celebrex, you may take morphine or another prescribed pain medication as directed.
- If you have been provided with a prescription for antibiotics, please ensure you take the medication as directed.
- If you have worsening pain not controlled by your medication, please contact our office for instructions.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- As mentioned above, get plenty of rest. Please rest in an upright position for your comfort and to decrease the swelling for the first 5-10 days. You may be most comfortable in a recliner or bed with several pillows to support you in this position.
- Please avoid strenuous activity for 2-4 weeks after surgery. However, low impact activities such as walking are strongly encouraged. Your surgeon may advise you on other specific restrictions based on your case.
- We recommend that you do not wear any clothing that you need to pull over your head for the first two weeks following surgery.
- It is also a good idea to avoid chewing hard foods for two weeks following surgery.
- Please no contact sports for six weeks.
- Please refrain from smoking. Smoking may increase the chance of complications.
- Please do not swim in lakes, pools or use hot tubs for at least 2 weeks following surgery.
- It generally takes up to 6-8 weeks to feel normal again and resume regular activities. Please ask your surgeon if you have any questions about activity level during the healing process.

**WORK:**

- You will likely be ready to return to work within 1-4 weeks depending on your occupation and type of physical exertion required. If you require a medical note for your employer, please contact your Patient Care Coordinator and they will be happy to help you.

**DRIVING:**

- You must be pain free and off all pain medication before driving. You may wish to take a licensed adult with you during your first short trip.

**THE RESULT:**

- You can expect swelling and bruising for the first 2 weeks after surgery. Your ears may also feel numb after surgery. This is normal and the feeling will return in the next weeks to months. You may also experience tingling sensations; this is also normal as the nerves are regenerating over time. Your scars will remain slightly pink for more than 6 months, but will gradually fade.

**If you have any of the following, call our office (during business hours), your family doctor or present to the Emergency Department:**

**Signs of Infection:**

- Pus-like drainage from the incision, grey or green.
- Redness that spreads beyond the incision.
- New pain, getting worse after 3 or 4 days.
- Fever, chills, sweats, aches and pains (flu-like symptoms).

**Other Symptoms:**

- Increased swelling or bruising after 3 days
- Severe or increased pain not relieved by medication

**Questions not addressed by this handout**

**Special Instructions:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**POSTOPERATIVE CALL:**

- The nurse assigned to your care may call you the day after your surgery to check in. Please let her know of any questions or concerns.

**FOR AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES:**

- Call the Queensway Carleton Hospital at 613-721-2000 and the Plastic Surgeon on-call will be paged.

**FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT:**

- Your Patient Care Coordinator will call you to confirm your appointment. Please call us at 613-232-7777 if you have any questions or concerns.

**YOUR APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR:** \_\_\_\_\_