

## PANNICULECTOMY

Surgery Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### **TWO WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY:**

1. Some medication can interfere with anesthesia and cause undesirable side effects that affect your surgery. Please read over the enclosed medication information 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 medication to take for any aches or pains you may have prior to surgery.
2. Smoking will affect how you heal. It is very important to stop smoking 2-3 months before your surgery.
3. If you develop a cold, facial sore or any other illness prior to surgery, please notify us.
4. If you are having surgery as an outpatient, please be sure arrangements have been made for a responsible adult to drive you to and pick you up after surgery and to stay with you for the first 24 hours.

### **EVENING BEFORE SURGERY:**

1. Make some jello and/or soup for after surgery.
2. Get a good night's rest
3. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

### **DAY OF SURGERY: Be at the Surgery Center/Hospital at:\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Do not eat or drink anything if your surgery is scheduled before noon. If your surgery is scheduled after noon, you may have coffee or tea and dry toast at least 6 hours before your surgery time.
2. Do not wear wigs, hairpins, hairpieces, jewelry, contact lenses, dentures, nail polish, or makeup. Dress in loose-fitting comfortable clothes. Do not wear pullover tops or panty hose. Wear slip on shoes.
3. Most patients require an overnight stay after surgery. It is important to get out of bed as soon as possible after surgery and often times you will need to walk slightly bent over to relieve tension on the abdominal wounds. Most patients have compression garments or binder in place along with drains to help with post-operative swelling. Put a pillow and blanket in the car for the trip home the next morning.

## **AT HOME AFTER SURGERY:**

1. After surgery, it is important for you to have someone available to stay with you for the first 24-48 hours, as you will be weak and drowsy. You may require help the first few times you get out of bed. You will need to measure the volume of retained drains every 24 hours and care for them as instructed.
2. A light diet is best for the day of surgery. Begin by taking liquids slowly and progress to soups or jello. You may start a regular diet the next day.
3. Most people experience muscle soreness as well as sharp pains for about 4-5 days after surgery. The pain medication we have prescribed should relieve your discomfort. You may take it every 3-4 hours as needed. It is best to take pain medication with crackers, jello, etc. Alcohol and pain medication should not be taken together.
4. It is important to refrain from any strenuous activities for at least 2 weeks after surgery. Gradually work back up to pre-surgical activities after two weeks. The drains should be removed within 10 days in most cases.
5. The compression garment or abdominal binder should be worn **AT ALL TIMES** for **TWO WEEKS** and then at night only for the next two weeks.
6. You may remove the garments 48 hours after surgery and shower. Remove all dressings as instructed and drains are made to get wet. You can put the garments in the washer and dryer while you are showering and then put it back on immediately. Avoid tightening the abdominal binders too much.
7. The body retains fluids in response to surgery so do not expect to see any immediate weight loss. The abdominal scars can be significant and are never completely symmetric due to differences in body shape. If Dermabond or “Superglue” is used on your wound no further care is required, otherwise apply a thin layer of Bacitracin to the wound twice a day for and the scars should be kept clean. In the long run, you will see a change in the way your clothes fit more than a decrease in pounds.
8. The abdominal scars can be significant and are never completely symmetric due to differences in body shape. The abdominal wound should be kept clean removing debris or blood with half strength hydrogen peroxide the first several days only. If Dermabond or “Superglue” was used on your wound no further care is required, otherwise apply a thin layer of Bacitracin to the wound twice a day. The belly button should be allowed to dry after surgery unless told differently by the surgeon.

9. Swelling and bruising are a normal expectation following surgery. Bruising could be apparent for as long as 1-2 months afterward. The bruises will move down your body, as they are absorbed. Patients will experience numbness of the abdominal wound and as sensation returns may experience tingling in the region.
10. Massage to the surgical sites will help increase circulation and alleviate the hardness felt underneath the skin. The massages can begin 2 weeks after surgery.
11. All patients will experience numbness of the abdominal wall and surgical sites after surgery and itching or tingling sensation normal reflects healing after surgery. This will gradually subside over the next 2-3 months.
12. Redness and fever of the abdominal wound may reflect a local wound infection that should be reported to the surgeon immediately. However, it is not unusual for patients to note small areas of redness along their abdominal wound at 4-6 weeks following surgery. Deep sutures are used to decrease opening of the wounds and scarring following surgery. As your body absorbs these sutures a local reaction may occur resulting in inflammation or suture exposure. Warm compresses will decrease the inflammation and the pain and if symptoms persistent please notify the surgeon's office.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Strenuous activity/heavy lifting of objects greater than 10 lbs should be avoided for 6-8 weeks.
2. All incisions will be extremely sensitive to sunlight during the healing phase. Direct sun contact is to be avoided and use a sunscreen with SPF 20 or greater for at least 6 months.
3. Please take all medications carefully and as directed.
4. If you have nausea, vomiting, rash shortness of breath, or diarrhea after taking your medication, 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.