Using Cranberry Supplement after Gynecologic Surgery

Why do I need to take this supplement?
Cranberries contain proanthocyanidins (PACs), which help to prevent infection urinary tract infections. During your surgery, a bladder catheter is usually inserted. In most cases, it is removed later on the day of surgery or the next morning. This brief catheterization increases your risk of developing a urinary tract infection (UTI) in the weeks after surgery.

A National Institute of Health-funded study, conducted here at the University of Michigan, showed that cranberry supplementation after gynecologic surgery reduces the risk of developing a UTI by 50%.

Because of this study, Michigan Medicine recommends that you use TheraCran® One to reduce your risk of developing a UTI.

What do I need to do before the surgery?
Two weeks before your surgery, order a 6-week supply of TheraCran® One capsules. The cost is less than $40. You can order online at: http://www.theralogix.com/landing/MICH or call (877) 772-9470. If you call, be clear that you want the 42-Day Supply Single Shipment and give Provider Code 948109.
When do I start taking TheraCran® One?

For best protection we recommend using cranberry both before and after your surgery.
- **One week before your surgery**, start taking one TheraCran® One capsule once a day. If you still haven't received it by 1 week before your surgery, start taking it when you get it. It will still help reduce your risk of UTI.
- You will continue taking one capsule per day for 5 weeks after the surgery.

Should I continue taking cranberry after the five-week period is over?

Yes. Research has shown that a daily dose of 36 milligrams of proanthocyanidins (PACs) decreases the risk of having a Urinary Tract Infection. TheraCran® One is a certified cranberry supplement that has been standardized to contain 36 milligrams of PACs in one capsule.

How can I get the right daily dose of PACs?

You can get your daily dose in one of three ways:
- Take one TheraCran® One cranberry supplement once a day,
- Take a different supplement that is standardized to 36 milligrams of PACs per day, or
- Drink 8 to 10 ounces of cranberry juice cocktail (27% juice) a day.

Comparison of TheraCran® One and Cranberry Juice Cocktail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TheraCran® One Supplement</th>
<th>Cranberry Juice Cocktail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories per day</td>
<td>Less than 5</td>
<td>140-180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grams of sugar per day</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost for one month</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$25-$35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We do not recommend drinking artificially sweetened juice because artificial sweeteners are bladder irritants.
What are the warning symptoms of a UTI?
You may have a UTI if you have any of the following signs and symptoms:
• Pain while urinating
• Frequent, strong need to urinate
• Strong need to go, but not much urine comes out
• Blood in your urine
• Fever – temperature above 38 Celsius or 100.4 Fahrenheit

What should I do if I get these symptoms?
Call your doctor right away.
If you are unsure of the number to call, contact Von Voigtlander Women’s Hospital Patient Services toll free number at 1-855-589-6626