

Wide Local Excision Post-Operative Instructions

What can I expect after surgery?

- This procedure usually requires an overnight hospital stay as an outpatient or a 1-2 day stay as an inpatient.
- Patients will be located on the Observation unit or 4B.
- Patients may or may not have a Foley catheter depending on the length of the surgery. If patients do have a foley then it will be removed when the patient is up and walking.
- Patients may or may not have a dohoff tube (tube placed through the nose). The dohoff tube is only temporary and used for nutrition and medications while the incision site heals. The dohoff tube is usually in place for 2-4 weeks.

What are my post-operative instructions?

- Patients will have sutures. If the sutures are on the inside of the mouth then they will dissolve on their own. Sutures on the face or neck must be removed by your surgeon. The sutures to the face will need to be removed in 5-7 days and sutures on the neck 10-14 days.
- Bacitracin should be placed on skin face and neck sutures for the 1st week after surgery. After removal of the sutures, a moisturizer may be used.
- A patient can take a bath or shower 48 hours after surgery, but are not allowed to submerge the wounds for 2 weeks after full healing.

What should my activity level be?

Patients can plan on being off work for about 1 week.

Are there diet restrictions after surgery?

Patients will be instructed to take nothing by mouth until given the OK by the surgeon. Some patients may need to pass a swallow study before the dobhoff tube is removed or being allowed anything by mouth.

How do I manage pain after surgery?

- All medications will need to be liquid or crushed to pass through the dobhoff tube.
- All medications taken prior to surgery may be altered and some new medications may be added until the dobhoff tube is removed.
- Your pain will be managed throughout the post-operative period. You should expect that there may be some discomfort in the process.

What follow-up care will I receive?

- The first post-operative appointment should be within 10-14 days after surgery and should be made at time of discharge.
- Biopsy results will be discussed at first post-operative appointment.

When should I call my doctor?

- If you have increased swelling or bruising.
- If you have severe or increased pain not relieved by medication.
- If you have any side effects to medications; such as, rash, nausea, headache, vomiting, increased irritability, or constipation.
- If you have an oral temperature over 100.5 degrees. Check to make sure they are getting enough liquids. Dehydration can cause the body temperature to rise.

Who should I call if I have questions?

- (734) 936-5950, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- After hours and on weekends, call Hospital Paging at (734) 936-6267 and

ask for the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon on call.

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