



THE FEW INSTITUTE  
for AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY

## POST-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS: ABDOMINOPLASTY

Once your surgery is completed, you must follow all the instructions given to you in order to heal properly and have a good outcome.

### NORMAL POST-OPERATIVE SYMPTOMS

Normal symptoms of abdominoplasty are as follows:

- Tightness and stiffness in abdomen, bruising, swelling and redness, tingling, burning or intermittent shooting pain. These are normal experiences as the skin, tissues and sensory nerves heal. Pain medication and muscle relaxants will help you cope with any discomfort. If you have drains, you may experience additional localized discomfort. **Consistent sharp pain should be reported to our office immediately.**
- Skin firmness, hypersensitivity or lack of sensitivity is normal and will gradually resolve over time.
- Shiny skin or any itchy feeling is normal. Swelling can cause the skin in treated areas to appear shiny. As the healing process advances, you may also find a mild to severe itchy feeling. An antihistamine like Benadryl can help to alleviate severe, constant itchiness. **If the skin becomes red and hot to the touch, contact our office immediately.**
- Asymmetry can be normal. One side of your body may look or feel quite different from the other in the days following surgery.

### CALL THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A high fever, (over 101°) severe nausea and vomiting, continued dizziness or incoherent behavior, such as hallucinations.
- Any pain that cannot be controlled by your pain medication.
- Bright red skin that is hot to the touch.
- Excessive bleeding or fluid seeping through the incisions.
- A severely misshapen region anywhere on your abdomen or bruising that is localized to one specific point of the abdomen.

**DAY OF SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Walk every 2 hours for 10 minutes while awake
- Do not attempt to stand fully up right as this can cause serious damage to operative area
- Resume daily activities as tolerated
- Take medications as directed
- You may resume all medications immediately after surgery
- Sleep at 45 degree angle (2 pillows) for 1-2 weeks
- Keep incision clean and dry.
- Do not remove steri-strips (little white or brown tape strips)
- You may shower 24-48 hours after surgery.
- Do Not Drive while taking a narcotic medication
- You may switch to Ibuprofen 24 hours after procedure
- Wear compression garment as directed
- Do not lift, pull, or push anything heavier than 5lbs for 2 weeks post surgery
- No exercising for 14 days after surgery
- Schedule follow up appointment 3-5 days post surgery

To contact Dr. Few after hours, please call the answering service at 312-202-0882 , and press "0"