



THE FEW INSTITUTE  
*for* AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY

## POST-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS: BRACHIOPLASTY

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

The following instructions are your obligation. Use this as a checklist of progress as you heal. Included are normal post-surgical experiences and key health considerations that may be a cause of concern.

### TYPICAL POST-OPERATIVE SYMPTOMS

Typical symptoms of Brachioplasty and signs to watch for following arm lift surgery include the following:

**Tightness and stiffness in the arm and underarm region: 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:** This is normal and will gradually resolve over time.

**Shiny skin or any itchy feeling:** Swelling can cause the skin of your arms to appear shiny. As the healing process advances, you may also find a mild to severe itchy feeling in your upper arms. 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, the arms look different, or heal differently:** Your arms may look or feel quite different from one another in the days following surgery. This is normal; no two arms in nature are perfectly symmetrical or 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 upper arm or bruising that is localized to one specific point of the arm.**

**DAY OF SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Walk every 2 hours for 10 minutes while awake
- 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"