

Discharge Instructions: Simple Mastectomy without Reconstruction, with or without Lymph Node Procedure - Breast

What To Expect

- You will have Dermabond® (skin glue) covering your incision. This creates a protective barrier over the wound.
- A small amount of bruising is normal after surgery.
- You will have 1 or 2 Jackson-Pratt (JP) drains after your mastectomy.
- If blue dye was used during the sentinel lymph node biopsy, your skin, urine, and parts of your eyes may be blue for the first 24 - 48 hours after surgery.

Wound Care

- You may shower after 24-48 hours after surgery.
- Keep a clean, dry dressing over the JP drain insertion site. Optional: You may cover the mastectomy incision with a dry dressing.
- The drains are sutured into place and covered with a dry dressing. The dressing can be removed if soiled or to take showers, etc.
- Record the output from your drain every day. Bring this record with you to your post-operative visit.
- The amount of drainage will slowly decrease over time.
- The color of the drainage should change from a reddish color to a straw colored fluid – this is normal.
- When showering, do not try to scrub the incisions or drainage sites. Do not soak the incision (baths/swimming/hot tubs) for 2 weeks. Allow soap and water to come in contact with your incision and then gently pat dry with a clean towel.
- The Dermabond® will start to come off after about 2 weeks. Do not try to pick off the edges that have loosened.
- Avoid bras that rub or put direct pressure on the incision sites. You will be more comfortable if you wear a sports bra or supportive bra after your procedure.

Restrictions

- It is helpful to walk regularly after surgery.
- Avoid lifting anything weighing 10 pounds or more. Avoid excessive use of the affected arm (such as weight lifting) until the drain is removed.
- Do not raise the arm above shoulder level (more than 90 degrees) until the surgical drains are removed.
- Once the drain is removed, begin the range of motion exercises the physical therapist taught you. Progressive use of the affected arm is acceptable and has not been shown to worsen arm swelling.
- Most home medications can be restarted the day after surgery (24 hours after surgery). We will give you specific instructions about blood thinners, including aspirin, on the medication reconciliation form.
- Do not drive or make important decisions while on opioid pain medications.

Pain Control

- Ibuprofen (Advil®/Motrin®) and acetaminophen (Tylenol®) are over-the-counter pain medicines that work very well for pain control. Please take as directed on the bottle.
- **The maximum daily dose of acetaminophen is 4000 milligrams.** Check all medication labels. Acetaminophen may be an ingredient in over-the-counter and prescription medications.
- You can take 600 mg of ibuprofen (Advil®/Motrin®) every 6 hours or 800 mg every 8 hours. Please take it with food and a tall glass of water.
- You may alternate the ibuprofen and acetaminophen every 3 to 4 hours if needed.

Diet

- You may resume your previous diet. We recommend you begin with lighter foods and if that does not upset your stomach, progress to a regular diet.

Call Us If...

- you develop a fever higher than 101° F (38.3°C) or have a fever with chills
- an incision becomes red, inflamed, warm, or tender to the touch
- the drainage from the bulb increases in volume, turns dark red with clots, or stops draining completely
- you notice pus-filled, foul-smelling drainage from either the incision or the drain
- you notice that your chest wall is becoming "puffy" or filled with fluid after surgery
- you have severe pain that is not relieved with pain medication

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our clinic at **716-845-3152**. The Breast Center is open 8:00am and 5:00pm on weekdays, but your call will be answered even if the Breast Center is closed.

Follow Up Care

- You should be scheduled for a follow up appointment in the clinic about 1- 2 weeks after surgery.
- At this appointment we will remove the drain if your drainage is less than 30-35 milliliters/24 hrs. This requires removal of a single stitch and is generally well tolerated.
- You will also receive the final pathology report at this visit and discuss any further recommendations or treatments.
- Since this appointment is very important, please contact the clinic if you do not have one scheduled or if you need to change the date or time.