

# LIPOSUCTION SURGERY

## Pre- & Post-Operative Instructions

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The purpose of the instructions within this document is to help you prepare for surgery and to also make your recovery as smooth as possible. It is important that these instructions are adhered to and followed. Mr Allen Rezai will discuss the relevant instructions with you at each follow up appointment. If you are unsure of anything please contact us immediately.

## PRE-OPERATIVE PREPARATION

### DON'Ts:

- ✓ Do not Eat or Drink after 12 midnight on the night before your procedure, unless instructed otherwise by Us.
- ✓ Do not smoke for at least 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after surgery. Although it is better NOT to resume smoking after your surgery.
- ✓ Stop your alcohol intake 2 weeks prior to surgery and 1 week after.
- ✓ Stop intake of multivitamins and supplements at least 2 weeks prior to and 1 week after surgery.
- ✓ Do not Take any Anti-inflammatory medications at least 1 week before and after surgery. These include but not limited to:  
***-Ibuprofen, Nurofen, Voltarol, Naproxen, Piroxicam, Indocid, Surgam, Froben, Lederfen***
- ✓ Do not Take any Anticoagulants (medications to thin your blood) containing Aspirin/salicylates or any cold or Flu medication e.g. Lemsip etc for at least 1 week before and after surgery.
- ✓ Avoid eating Garlic or foods containing Garlic, 1 week before and after surgery, as this will increase the risk for bleeding.
- ✓ Remove ALL piercing, make up, nail varnish, or artificial nails prior to coming to the hospital on the day of surgery.
- ✓ Do not wear any contact lenses on the day of surgery.
- ✓ NO Holidays should be planned for until 6-8 weeks post-op.

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**DO's:**

- ✓ Take any regular medication previously approved by Mr Rezai, prior to, and up to, the day of surgery-check with Us, if you are not sure.
- ✓ Shower on the morning or evening prior to surgery, cleansing your entire body.
- ✓ Remove any contact lenses, nail polish and jewellery whilst at home on the day of surgery.
- ✓ Wear comfortable, front opening and loose clothing to the hospital.
- ✓ Bring your post-surgery compression garment to the hospital.
- ✓ Arrange for someone to stay with you during the first 3 days following surgery, as you may find it difficult to move around.
- ✓ If you will be on your own (not recommended), you should shop for food such as prepared meals, fruits and such in advance. You can also cook a few meals ahead of time and freeze portions.
- ✓ Purchase Micropore surgical tape (paper version) and bio oil or any type of lotion/cream that has vitamin E, you will be needing these after your first week post-op.
- ✓ You will receive Antibiotics and Pain Medication before your discharge from the hospital, However, if you prefer, you may also purchase Paracetamol and have that at hand, for when you run out of the pain medication received from the hospital. It is important that you take your antibiotics and pain medication as prescribed, and not overdose. *If in doubt, contact Us.*

**COMMON POST-OPERATIVE SYMPTOMS**

Typical symptoms following Abdominoplasty Surgery, and what symptoms to watch out for:

- **Tingling, burning or intermittent shooting pain:** These are normal experiences as the skin, muscles, tissues, and sensory nerves heal. Pain medication will help you cope with any discomfort. **Consistent sharp pain should be reported to Us Immediately.**
- **Itching:** As the healing process advances, you may also find a mild to severe itching of the incision area or the abdomen itself. An antihistamine, such as Claritin, can help to alleviate severe, constant itchiness. **If the skin becomes red and hot to the touch, contact Us Immediately.**
- **Bruising and Swelling.** Bruising will mostly resolve within 2-4 weeks; however, residual swelling and lumpiness may persist for a longer period of time to subside and for the area to smoothen out completely.

**UNCOMMON / RARE POST-OPERATIVE SYMPTOMS**

**CONTACT OUR CLINIC IMMEDIATELY** IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- High fever, severe nausea and vomiting, continued dizziness, or incoherent behaviour, such as hallucinations.
- Consistent sharp pain or any pain that cannot be controlled with your pain medication.
- Bright red skin that is hot to the touch in the surgical area.

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- Excessive Oozing of blood and fluid from the incision (some oozing of blood and fluid is normal)

**We encourage you to call us with any questions or concerns you may have.**  
You may call us during office hours 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, on 020 7580 8001.  
**In case of emergency during out of office hours, you can reach us on 077 9506 5621**

## **FOLLOWING DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL, UNTIL YOUR FIRST POST-OP APPOINTMENT**

You will only be released to the care of a responsible adult, unless otherwise have been agreed with Mr Rezai in advance. All of these instructions must be clear to the adult who will monitor your health and support you, around the clock in your first days at home from the hospital.

- ❖ **We will call you every day**, to see how you are doing, until your first post-op appointment.
- ❖ **Rest, but not bed rest.** While rest is important in the early stages of healing, equally important is that you are ambulatory: meaning that you are walking under your own strength as you recover. **NO** long walks and no going up and down the stairs up to 14 days after surgery. Overactivity will cause fluid accumulation, known as seroma and may require draining.
- ❖ **Monitor post-surgical symptoms and be alert to possible complications.** These are defined, along with the actions you should take, on page 2 of this document.
- ❖ **Fluids are critical following surgery.** Stick to non-carbonated, non-alcoholic, caffeine-free, and green tea-free beverages including fruit juices and water, milk, and yogurt drinks. You must consume at least 1 glass (about 250ml) of fluid every 2 hours.
- ❖ **Good nutrition is important during recovery.** Stick with soft, bland, nutritious diet for the first 24 hours. Constipation and bloating are common after surgery. This can be improved by increasing fluid intake, reducing salt intake and eating foods such as bananas and bran products. Having a stool softener, such as Duphalac syrup, at home may also help alleviate constipation. Taking prescription pain medicine with food, such as a few crackers or applesauce, will help to reduce any nausea you may experience with the medication.
- ❖ **Take all medication, exactly as prescribed.** Complete all antibiotics unless told otherwise by Mr Rezai.
- ❖ **Keep incisions and dressings clean and dry.** Dressings should be left in place until you visit our clinic for your 1<sup>st</sup> follow up appointment, 5-7 days after surgery, or until you are instructed to remove them. Your incision will ooze fluid and some blood for a short time after surgery. You may sponge bathe with assistance, or use baby wipes. **DO NOT** get the wounds wet.
- ❖ **Do not smoke.** Smoking can greatly impair your safety prior to surgery and your ability to heal following surgery, resulting in more noticeable scars. You must not smoke at least 6 weeks after your surgery, and

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your caregiver must not smoke anywhere near you.

- ❖ **Limit your activity and** avoid vigorous activities that requires pushing, pulling or lifting.
- ❖ **You must wear the surgical compression garment around the clock, as directed.** You may remove your garments 1hr/day or have it removed 20 minutes/morning, 20 minutes/midday, and 20 minutes/evening.
- ❖ **You may apply a cool, not cold, compress to affected sites to alleviate discomfort, swelling or bruising.** Wrap crushed ice or ice packs in a towel before applying to skin. DO NOT apply ice or anything frozen directly to the skin. Cool compresses should be applied for no longer than 20-minute intervals. DO NOT apply heat to affected areas as this will only worsen swelling.
- ❖ **DO NOT drive until after your first post-operative appointment. Depending on your healing,** driving can normally be resumed 7 days after surgery.
- ❖ **Your first post-op visit will be around 5-7 days after surgery.** At this time, your dressing will be changed and your initial healing will be assessed.

## **FOLLOWING YOUR FIRST POST-OP APPOINTMENT, UNTIL YOUR 4-6 WEEKS' POST-OP APPOINTMENT**

You will continue to heal and you will feel better day after day. It is important to ease into your daily activities. You will be advised when to begin driving or return to work at your 1<sup>st</sup> post-op visit. It is important to follow the instructions given and if in doubt about anything, ALWAYS contact us and NOT search online.

- ❖ **Easing into your Normal Daily Activities.** You should now start gently, easing into your daily routines, however, still NO heavy lifting, exercise, or strenuous activity.
- ❖ **Continue wearing your compression garment,** day and night, until your 4-6 weeks' appointment.
- ❖ **Suture Removal.** Normally sutures are removed at 5-7 days after surgery.
- ❖ **Scar Care.** To reduce tension over your scar and to aid its healing, you should apply Micropore tape on your incisions as instructed during your 1<sup>st</sup> post-op appointment.
- ❖ **Continue to cleanse wounds as directed** and change the Micropore tape every other day.
- ❖ **Moisturise the skin** of your abdomen as it tends to feel dry, flaky, and itchy. Use Bio Oil or any cream containing Vitamin E. DO NOT put directly over the scar.
- ❖ **Maintain daily walking.** Walking is essential every day to prevent the formation of blood clots.

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- ❖ **Maintain a healthy diet.**
- ❖ **Do not smoke.** While incisions may have sealed, smoking deprives your body of necessary oxygen that can result in poorly healed, wide, raised scars.
- ❖ **No Holiday** should be booked for during the first 4-6 weeks following your surgery. Avoid direct sun or heat exposure on your body.
- ❖ **At your 4-6 weeks' post-op appointment**, we will show you how take care of your scar and teach you how to massage the hard and lumpy areas, if any.

## **FOLLOWING YOUR 4-6 WEEKS' POST-OP APPOINTMENT**

Although it may appear that you have completely healed, your body is still healing inside and may continue to heal for another 6 months. It is important to follow these instructions as advised until your 9 months' post-op appointment.

- ❖ **Bruising** should have resolved by now, however, **Swelling** may take longer.
- ❖ **Do Not resume smoking, if you can.**
- ❖ **Massage with Bio-Oil**, as instructed, 15-20 minutes each day for 3-4 months. The longer you continue the massage the better, as it will increase blood circulation to the area and aid the healing process minimizing the possibility of lumpiness.
- ❖ **Continue Scar care as directed at you 4-6 weeks' appointment.** You should start applying circular light pressure massage over your scar, using Bio-Oil. This is to aid the healing and to improve the appearance of the scars. Continue to do this for 3-4 months. The longer, the better. Your scars will be red and raised to start with and will improve with time, especially after you start the circular massage following your 4-6 weeks' appointment. The process of scar maturation may take as long as 1 year to be completed. They never disappear completely.
- ❖ **NO need to wear your surgical compression garment.** If you feel comfortable, you may wear it only at night.
- ❖ **You may ease into your regular fitness routine.** However realise that your body may require some time to return to prior strength If you feel pain when exercising, wait 5 minutes, and gently resume your exercise. If you feel pain in your abdomen following workout, you may take Ibuprofen.
- ❖ **Practice good sun protection.** Do not expose your scars to direct sunlight for up to ONE year. If you are outdoors, or on holiday, apply at least SPF 50 over your scars, During your healing process, your scars are sensitive and direct sun exposure may cause inflammation of tissue which may result in unnecessary

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complications.

- ❖ **Follow Up** at 9 months' post-op or as advised.

## **FOLLOWING YOUR 9 MONTHS' POST-OP APPOINTMENT**

At this point, You should be able to see the result sof your surgery, however, it may take longer for some patients.

- ❖ A Healthy diet and excersize are recommended for toning and maintaining the result of your surgery.
- ❖ No more follow ups are necessary unless advised otherwise. However, you are welcome to contact us at any time if you have any questions.

***We are always here to Help, feel free to contact us if in doubt, or if you have any questions.***

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