



**ELLIOT M. HIRSCH, MD**  
PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

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## **General Incision Care Post-Operative Instructions**

**Medications:** Your greatest discomfort will be in the first 24-48 hours after your procedure. If you have pain, you should take your prescribed pain medication or Tylenol. Take your pain medication with food to avoid nausea or stomach discomfort. Pain medication can be constipating, so be sure to eat fruits and vegetables. Drink plenty of fluids as well.

**Dressings and Incision Care:** You may shower and wash your incision as you normally would starting 24 hours after your procedure. Please gently wash your incision with soap and water twice daily and pat dry. After the first 24 hours, you do not need to keep your incision covered if you do not wish to. If no steri-strips were placed on your incision, please apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment to your incision after each washing. If dermabond or steri-strips were placed on your incision, do not apply any ointment to your incision.

In most cases, your sutures will be removed by Dr. Hirsch 1-2 weeks after surgery.

**Activity:** Make sure that you are up and walking and moving around the first night after surgery, this is very important! You will find that the more you move around, the better you feel. Please avoid strenuous activity or any lifting greater than 20 pounds until you are seen by Dr. Hirsch.

**Diet:** You may resume your regular diet

**Special Instructions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**When to Call:** A small to moderate amount of clear to light pink drainage from the incision is normal. However, if this drainage is dark, bloody, or foul smelling, please call Dr. Hirsch.

Please call Dr. Hirsch's office if you are experiencing any of the following:

- fever of 101 or higher
- severe pain not responsive to pain medications
- increasing swelling
- increasing redness
- pus or foul-smelling drainage from the incision.

If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to call our office at any time: 818-825-8131.

Follow up: \_\_\_\_\_