

PRE AND POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERVICAL SURGERY
BEFORE SURGERY:

1. Medical Clearance: If you need medical clearance and are getting clearance from your primary care doctor, please have his/her office fax the clearance to our office at 949-258-5858, at least 5 days prior to surgery.
2. Medications: To minimize bleeding, please stop taking medications containing aspirin or any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines such as Advil (Ibuprofen), Aleve (naproxen), Indocin, Feldene, Relafen, and herbal medicines containing ginkgo, ginseng, and garlic. Please have your pain prescription filled before surgery in order to have it prior to needing it.
3. Diet: DO NOT eat or drink at least 12 hours prior to the time of your surgery. However, you may take your blood pressure medications with a small sip of water on the day of surgery if that is the usual time to take it.
4. Smoking: If you smoke, you must stop smoking---NOW! Smoking will affect healing so it will affect your fusion rate if you had a fusion.
5. Showering: If you were given special soap, please use as directed. If not, please purchase Hibiclens liquid at a pharmacy. Starting two days before surgery, lather from your neck down with Hibiclens and rinse off. Do this 2 times a day, including the day of surgery. Do not shave around the surgical site. This will lessen the risk of infection.

AFTER SURGERY:

1. Brace: A cervical collar will be worn at all times, except when showering and eating. Your doctor will advise you on how long to wear the collar.
2. Showering: You can typically take off your dressings and shower with soap and water about 7 days after surgery, and then put on new dressings. But NO submerging your incision in water such as bathing, hot tubs, pools, or beaches until instructed.
3. Dressings: Keep clean and dry. Typically, you can start changing your dressings 3 days after surgery by using clean gauzes and peroxide daily, which can be purchased at a pharmacy store. If the dressings are saturated, you may replace it as needed to avoid leaving moisture around the incision site.
4. Activities: NO lifting, bending, twisting until instructed. You may walk as much as you can tolerate. Keep head/neck elevated by sitting or putting pillows behind shoulders/neck for first week.

5. CALL US if you have persistent fevers over 101 degrees, persistent drainage from incision site, or increased pain out of proportion. 949-491-9991.
6. Follow up: please schedule an appointment for approximately 2 weeks after surgery.