



THE MICHAEL HORN

CENTER FOR COSMETIC SURGERY

Scar Revision or Skin Lesion Home Care Instructions

Dr. Horn has a very dedicated nursing staff to help make sure are recovering and healing from surgery as expected. It is very important to keep your follow-up appointments as scheduled.

After-surgery appointment schedule with nursing staff:

1. **Initial follow-up appointment:** will be an in-office visit, one week after surgery. At this time, your incisions will be checked.
2. **Second follow-up appointment:** will be in-office, six to ten weeks after surgery. This appointment timing will-be-determined by your recovery progress. At this time, your incisions will be checked for proper healing.

Medications (contingent based off complexity of surgery):

Arnica: *helps reduce bruising and inflammation.*

- Starting 4 days prior to surgery-Dissolve 5 tablets under tongue 3 times daily for 5 days.

Keflex (Cephalexin) 500mg: *antibiotic.*

- Starting evening of surgery- Take 1 capsule by mouth 3 times daily for 7 days.

Celebrex (Celecoxib) 200mg: *helps reduce swelling.*

- Morning of surgery take 2 capsules by mouth with a small sip of water
- Morning after surgery take remaining 1 capsule by mouth with water

Norco (Hydrocodone/Acetaminophine) 5mg/325mg: *Opioid pain reliever*

- After surgery, as needed- Take 1 to 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain.

******* Please note:** Opioids can be addicted and have negative side effects, including constipation. If you are need of additional pain, relief after you completed your Norco we ask that you switch to Extra Strength Tylenol if needed (max 3 grams per day).

Allergies: If you notified us before your surgery that you were allergic to any of the above medications, we gave you a substitute medication. If this is the case, please follow the instructions on your medication bottle.

If you experience hives or itching after taking a medication, you may be having an allergic reaction. Please discontinue medication and contact us immediately.

Medication Usage: Take pain medication with food. Pain medications and decreased activity can cause constipation. Eating fresh fruit (not bananas) can help prevent constipation naturally. If needed you can purchase an over the counter stool softener or laxative from the pharmacy.

DO NOT take aspirin or aspirin containing products for four weeks after surgery; this includes Motrin/Advil/ibuprofen. Tylenol is a good substitute when needed for pain relief.

Bathing: After 48 hours, you can resume showering as normal; no soaking, bathtub use, swimming and/or steam rooms should be used for two weeks after surgery.

Instructions:

- This is an outpatient procedure performed in the office.
- You will need for someone drive you home after the procedure.
- Get plenty of rest; follow balanced diet.
- Do not drink alcohol when taking pain medications.
- If you are taking vitamins with iron, resume these as tolerated.
- Do not smoke, as smoking delays healing and increases the risk of complication.

What To Expect:

- Some bruising and swelling.
- May have slight bleeding from incision.

Appearance:

- Most of the discoloration and swelling will subside in a couple of weeks.
- Scars will be reddened for 6 months. After that, they will gradually fade and soften.
- Final results of surgery may take a year or more.

Topical Treatment During Recovery: You need to keep the area surrounding the incision moisturized with either Vaseline or Aquaphor, avoiding the Steri-strips. You may also purchase from our office the following recommended topical:

Alastin Regenerating Skin Nectar

Begin using immediately after steri-strips have fallen off

Cost: \$195 plus tax

Dressing: Starting 14 days after the procedure, any remaining tape can be removed from incision. At this time, you can begin massaging incision line for 15 minutes per day with Vitamin E, coco butter, or products advised by our clinical staff. The sutures used are dissolvable; you will not need to have them removed.

Driving: You may resume driving when you are no longer taking prescription pain medication and you are able to sit comfortably behind the wheel; make certain you are able to perform all motions necessary for safe driving.

Recommendations for scar care: Scar care can begin six weeks post-operatively. We do not recommend applying any topical treatments that address scarring, including the ones listed below, until you are six to ten weeks post op.

NeoCutis BioGel Moisturizing HydroGel: Visibly diminishes the appearance of scars.

Instructions: Apply to affected area twice daily. Cost: \$178 plus Tax

Scar Away Cream or Patches: Apply as directed on package for eight to ten weeks total. These treatments are generally available at your local pharmacy, Amazon or through the Scar Away website.

BIOCORNEUM by Sientra: Crosslinked silicone that visibly diminishes the appearance Of scars. ***Instructions:*** Apply a thin, even layer twice daily. Cost: \$143.95 plus Tax

General instructions:

- Do not stay unattended for the first 24 hours following surgery.
- Do not work with electrical or mechanical devices for 24 hours.
- Do not drive for 24 hours after surgery.
- Do not take tranquilizers or sleeping pills for 24 hours after surgery.
- Do not make any important decisions/sign important documents for 24 hours after surgery or until your full mental alertness returns.
- Do not take aspirin or aspirin containing products for four weeks after surgery.
- Do not smoke for two weeks.

In case of: Continuous or Heavy Bleeding
Difficulty Breathing
Fever/ Chills
Continuous Nausea and Vomiting
Excessive Drainage from Surgical Area

Contact Dr. Horn or the clinical staff immediately.

During business hours, call the office at 312.202.9000. After hours, page Dr. Horn.