



# HOLLAND

PLASTIC SURGERY & AESTHETICS

## Thigh Lift Surgery

### Post-Operative Instructions

*The following instructions will provide helpful information and guide you through your recovery. These are designed to be general guidelines. Remember, everyone recovers differently.*

#### What to expect:

- Maximum discomfort will occur the first few days after surgery and then will subside gradually.
- At the time of surgery, you will be placed in a well-fitting compression garment, which should be worn for **24 hours a day (including overnight)** for 4 -5 weeks after surgery. Your garment will have vents so that it may be worn even when using the restroom. The garment may be washed on the gentle cycle and air-dried as needed. While this is being done please stay off your feet and minimize activity.
- Nausea can occur following any surgical procedure and generally passes by the first postoperative day.
- You may experience some difficulty standing up straight for the first week or two after surgery. Please do not make any special attempts to stretch or stand up straight during the first three weeks of healing. The tightness will gradually soften as you heal and progressively use your body muscles.
- It is generally best to plan to take seven to ten days off before returning to work. If your job is physical, it is not unreasonable to take some extra time.
- It is not uncommon for your genitalia, legs and feet to become swollen and/or bruised after surgery. If it becomes excessive, contact our office.

#### Pain Medication:

- **Take pain medication as prescribed.**
- **For pain that is less intense it would be appropriate to take Tylenol 500 mg two tablets every 6 hours (not to exceed 2000 mg in 24 hours) and Ibuprofen 600 mg every six hours, if it is not contraindicated for your health and you have not been prescribed Celebrex.**

#### Diet:

- Follow a balanced diet. Decreased activity may promote constipation, so you may want to add more raw fruit to your diet and be sure to increase your fluid intake.
- You may not feel very hungry for one to three days following the surgery. You should consume easily digested food for the first twenty-four hours (ex. toast, crackers, soup, bananas, rice, and applesauce).
- Do not drink alcohol when taking pain medications.

#### Activities:

- Have someone drive you home after surgery and help you at home for 1-2 days.
- Listen to your body and rest when you are tired.



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- Begin walking as soon as possible. Doing so will reduce swelling, prevent post-operative complications, and promote recovery.
- Do not drive until you are no longer taking the prescribed pain medications and you have full range of motion with your legs (approximately 5-7 days).
- Refrain from vigorous activity for 2-6 weeks. Increase activity gradually as tolerated.
- Avoid lifting anything over 10 pounds for 2-3 weeks.
- Do not smoke **any substance**, as doing so delays healing and increases the risk of complications.
- You should sleep with your feet elevated as to minimize swelling. Normal sleeping positions can be resumed 2 – 3 weeks after surgery.

## Wound care:

- You may shower 48 hours after surgery. Wash all incisions gently with soap and water. If you have white tape (steri-strips) on your incisions, leave this intact as it can get wet and normally will not come off in the shower. Remove your compression garment prior to showering and replace it when finished. Your incision may be taped with steri-strips. Leave these in place until they fall off themselves. You can expect some drainage onto the steri-strips.
- Do not use a hot tub or sauna for 4 weeks. You may use a swimming pool after 2 weeks, but no swimming for 4 – 6 weeks. Do not soak in a bathtub for 3 weeks after surgery.
- Inspect incisions daily for redness, swelling, heat, and or drainage with an odor.
- If your skin is dry after surgery, you may apply a moisturizer, but be sure to keep the suture area dry.
- Avoid exposing scars to sun for at least 12 months and always use a strong sunblock (SPF 30) if sun exposure is unavoidable.

## Call Dr. Holland if:

- Your temperature is greater than 101. It is not uncommon to have a low-grade fever after surgery.
- You have increased swelling and/or bruising.
- You have increased redness around the incision and/or if pus (yellowish or greenish drainage with a foul odor) drains from the incision.
- Severe or increased pain not relieved by medication occurs.
- You have side effects such as rash, nausea, headache and or vomiting from the medication.
- Severe bleeding occurs. Apply direct pressure to the area.
- You have a loss of feeling or motion.

## Follow up:

- Please make your follow-up appointment by calling the office or as instructed by Dr. Holland. If you have any problems before then, do not hesitate to call 207-835-4777 for assistance. **After hours, please call the office and press 7 when prompted to reach Dr. Holland directly.**