

Dr. Mendelsohn's Lumbar Spinal Surgery Discharge Instructions

Procedure: _____ Date: _____

WOUND CARE

You may remove the dressing and shower on the 3rd day after surgery. Keep the wound dry after showering. Avoid pools or baths for 3 weeks.

- ☐ Stitches are absorbable and do not require removal.
There may be pieces of tape on the incision. Allow those to fall off on their own.
- ☐ Stitches should be removed by your G.P. or at a walk-in-clinic 10-14 days after surgery.

Watch out for fluid draining from the wound, opening of the wound, increasing redness, increasing soreness, or fevers. These are signs of a wound infection. Wound infections occur very rarely. If there are any concerns with the incision, I need to be notified. Please seek medical attention and have the physician contact my office or the neurosurgeon on-call at Lion's Gate Hospital.

ACTIVITY

Walking is the best activity for recovering from spinal surgery.
Avoid bending the back forward, excessive twisting, or lifting more than 10 pounds.
Avoid physical exercise beyond walking for 6 weeks. Physiotherapy can be started after 6 weeks.

FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up appointments are scheduled for 6-8 weeks after surgery. Please contact my office within 2 weeks of discharge from hospital to schedule a follow-up appointment.
You may contact my office by phone or email: dr.mendelsohn.moa@gmail.com

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NEUROSURGEON

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MEDICATION INSTRUCTIONS

While you are experiencing regular pain, take acetaminophen (Tylenol) regularly as per the bottle's directions (unless you are allergic or have liver problems).

You will receive a prescription for pain medicine, if you require one. If you run out of pain medicine, please see your GP or a walk-in-clinic doctor for a refill.

- ☐ Avoid taking NSAIDS (ibuprofen, Advil, Motrin, naproxen, Aleve) for _____ week(s) after the surgery
- ☐ You may resume taking _____ days after the surgery (if on blood thinners)