SPEEDY RECOVERY

 Diet and Hydration Start slow – eat like you're recovering from the flu for the first few days (think bland, soft foods). Gradually reintroduce your normal diet as tolerated. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and help your body heal. Avoid alcohol while on pain medications.
 Incision Care You may remove your bandages and shower the day after surgery. Steri-strips (thin adhesive strips) will fall off on their own. Do not pull them off. Do not apply any creams, lotions, ointments, or medications to your incisions unless your doctor instructs you otherwise. Do not soak your incisions in water (no baths, hot tubs, or swimming) until your doctor says it's safe.
 Activity Guidelines No heavy lifting (over 20 pounds) for 6 weeks after surgery. Avoid strenuous activity or core exercises until cleared by your doctor. No swimming or submerging in water until after your first postoperative visit. Ask your doctor for a return-to-work note if needed, and discuss when it's safe to resume work and driving.
 Call our office or seek medical attention if you experience: Fever over 101°F (38.3°C) Redness, warmth, or pus around your incision Worsening pain that is not relieved with medication Severe nausea or vomiting Trouble urinating or having a bowel movement Shortness of breath or chest pain Any unexpected or concerning symptoms