

A **brow lift**, also known as a forehead lift, reduces forehead wrinkles, improves frown lines and places the eyebrows in a youthful position.

## PLANNING FOR SURGERY

### ONE MONTH BEFORE SURGERY

- Secure any pre-surgical physicals, laboratory tests and EKGs, if required by your surgeon. Not all patients will require these tests to be performed, but if needed, don't wait to the last minute.
- Practice a healthy lifestyle including proper diet and exercise. Staying fit and healthy can only increase your chances for a quick recovery.
- Have your hair cut and colored as needed. This is a great time to make that salon appointment.

### 2 WEEKS BEFORE SURGERY

- Stop taking certain medications, including aspirin, ibuprofen and vitamin E, which can increase your risk for certain surgical complications.
- Avoid using any nicotine from this point on, including cigarettes, pipes, chew, vapes and even smoking cessation patches. Nicotine can interfere with healthy circulation through your body, which can slow your healing from surgery and increase your risk of complications.
- Add 500mg of Vitamin C and a multivitamin to your daily routine to improve your general health and prepare your body for healing.
- Make plans for your accommodations. Arrange for a family member or friend to drive you safely to the surgery center and home.
- Start preparing a recovery area- a designated space in your home that is comfortable and easily accessible. Gather pillows, blankets, comfortable clothes, neck pillows, entertainment, healthy snacks, water and medical supplies.
- Wear sunscreen daily to avoid sun damage- especially to your face!

## RECOVERY EXPECTATIONS

### DAY OF SURGERY

After surgery, you may feel unsteady and sleepy. This is usually when you most need pain medication to say on top of discomfort. Take the prescribed pain medicine (Norco) or Extra Strength Tylenol as needed. You should wear loose clothing that fastens in the front for 2-3 days.

### FIRST WEEK

**SWELLING** and **BRUISING** of the surrounding tissues is completely normal. The bruising and swelling will be greater on the second or third day, but usually does not last more than one week. It is not unusual for one side of the face to be more swollen than the other. You may also feel pulled or tightness in the forehead region. This is normal and will resolve with time.

**DIZZINESS** and **MILD DISCOMFORT** can be expected. This generally will clear up after a few days. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids. There is usually little pain following your procedure, but any pain can be eased with your prescribed pain medication (Norco) or Tylenol. Small episodes of sharp pain or itching is completely normal during the healing process as well.

**MILD DEPRESSION** may be experienced after cosmetic surgery. This is related to the shock of seeing your face swollen and discolored. Remember this is a temporary condition and will get better day to day.

**NUMBNESS** and **LUMPINESS** may be experienced in areas of the forehead after surgery. This is completely normal and will resolve within a few weeks.

**HAIR THINNING** may occur in the areas near the staple lines in the temple and top of the head. This is temporary and will resolve in time.



## DAILY CARE



### Sutures

Occasionally, crusting will occur around the sutures/staples. This is normal and will resolve. Showering daily will minimize crusting. Sutures/Staples will be removed 6-7 days after surgery and the scars will appear a deep pink color that will fade with time. The firmness of the scar will also soften and become less noticeable. This process takes time and will heal within approximately one year. Do not try and remove crusting or sutures/staples by yourself.



### Showering

You may wash your hair and face 2 days after surgery. Your first time washing your hair should be with the provided baby shampoo. After this, continue to wash your hair daily using your normal shampoo and conditioner. Comb your hair with a large toothed comb. You may use a hair dryer to dry your hair, but it **MUST** be on a cool setting.



### Icing

Iced gauze should be applied to the eyes and forehead for 20 minutes every hour for the first 48 hours. Wet the gauze with water, place in a bag and put it in the freezer. This will help with bruising and swelling.



### Sleeping

Sleep on your back with your head **elevated about 30-40 degrees** (2 pillows). You are encouraged to sleep this way for 1 week to minimize bruising and swelling.



### Medication

Take the prescribed pain medicine (Norco) or Extra Strength Tylenol as needed. Continue taking your antibiotic (Keflex or Doxycycline) as prescribed until it is finished. You may take the prescribed sleeping pill (Restoril) as needed. To avoid an upset stomach, eat something before taking any medication. You will also be prescribed an anti-nausea medication (Zofran) that can be taken as needed. Avoid straining on the toilet- you will be prescribed a stool softener (Colace) that can be taken as needed.

## THINGS TO AVOID AFTER SURGERY



### Restricted Medications

Do not drink alcohol while taking pain medication. Avoid taking aspirin (Excedrin) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, Aleve) for 1 week after surgery. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be taken for occasional aches and pains.



### Movement

Avoid bending over or lifting heavy objects for 1 week. No strenuous exercise for 2 weeks. No contact sports for 5 weeks.



### Cosmetics

Do not apply hair coloring for 4 weeks after surgery. Avoid tweezing your eyebrows for 2 weeks. Do not use makeup for the first 4 days after surgery.



### Direct Sun

Avoid direct sun to the face for 3 weeks. If outside, make sure to wear sunscreen, sunglasses and hat.



### REPORT

Report any excessive bleeding that persists after applying pressure for a minimum of 20 minutes. Report any signs of infection such as excessive swelling, redness, sudden increase in pain or drainage and elevation in temperature (greater than 100.3 degrees). Report development of any drug reaction (rash, hives and/or itching).

