



JAMES W. MELISI, MD, FACS, PLLC

CRANIAL SURGERY PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

Pre Operative: You may choose to wash and cut your hair short prior to having surgery.

Post Operative Pain: You may experience some swelling, numbness, and pain around the incision area.

After Leaving the Hospital: When you get home from the hospital you will need sufficient rest, but do not spend the entire day in bed. Avoid any strenuous exercise. Do not wash your head until the sutures or staples have been removed. Make sure you call our office to make a follow up appointment 7-10 days after surgery. Tumor patients may be referred to an oncologist for radiation and/or chemotherapy. Referrals will be discussed during your first follow up appointment.

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (703) 796-1111:

- **If the incision drains persistently**
- **If you have excessive headaches**
- **If you have nausea, vomiting, dizziness, visual disturbances, weakness, difficulty with speech, seizures, or involuntary movement of the face, arms or legs.**
- **If you develop a fever over 101 F**
- **If you develop urinary retention or urinary or bowel incontinence**
- **If you experience calf pain or leg/foot swelling**
- **If you develop shortness of breath, chest pain or a productive cough.**
- **For other any other questions, please feel free to call**

Prescriptions: At the time of discharge from the hospital, a narcotic pain reliever will be given to you and possibly a prescription for an anti-seizure medication, (Dilantin, Phenobarbital, Keppra), a steroid (Decadron) and an antacid (Zantac, Prilosec).

If you are prescribed Dilantin or other seizure medicine, you will need periodic monitoring of blood levels. A script with instructions will be given to you during your first post-operative visit. Some people may experience an allergic reaction to seizure medications, especially Dilantin. **Please contact the office if you experience a rash or other signs of allergic reactions.**

One of the side effects of a narcotic medication is constipation. If you experience this problem you should limit the amount of pain reliever used, and try taking over the counter stool softeners (Milk of Magnesia, Colace, Peri-Colace) follow the instructions on the package.

Narcotic medications can depress the central nervous system causing impaired judgment and coordination. They may also impair the ability to operate a motor vehicle or other machinery. Please refrain from driving while taking these medications.

