

Winchester Surgeons

“Putting Patient Care First”



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Post-operative instructions following laparoscopic / open colectomy

Diet: You can eat a regular diet without any restrictions after surgery. On the first day eat small meals and drink plenty of liquids (8-10 glasses). Nausea and vomiting from anesthesia is not uncommon for 24 hours after surgery. Do not take any alcoholic drinks while taking pain killers prescribed by your doctor.

Activity: You can walk during the day to help your body return to normal. You can walk up stairs. Do not lift more than 10-15 lbs. for 4-6 weeks from surgery. Do not drive if you are taking narcotic medicine (Norco/Lortab, Percocet, Demerol, Dilaudid or Tylenol #3 etc.) or within 24 hours afterward. Do not return to exercise or strenuous activity until you are seen in follow-up. You can return to work when you feel comfortable, and when you can perform your job safely and at the level you and your employer expect.

Pain and discomfort: You may be given a prescription for a narcotic (Norco/Lortab, Percocet, Tylenol#3, Demerol or Dilaudid). Call the office if you experience itching or a rash and stop the medication. If you don't need as much pain medicine, you can take two extra strength Tylenol every 6 hours. All narcotics will make you constipated; drink plenty of liquids. If you don't have a bowel movement for two or three days then take one of the following by mouth: Miralax (1 serving-2 times a day) or Metamucil (1 Tablespoon in 16oz of water or juice-2 times a day) or Mineral Oil (2 tablespoons-2 times a day) or Milk of Magnesia (2 tablespoons-2 times a day).

Incision care: You may experience some swelling and bluish discoloration at the incision site. This is normal. You may use an ice pack for 24-48 hours to alleviate the swelling and discomfort. You may brace your incision with a small pillow when coughing and/or sneezing. Your incisions are covered with skin glue-you may shower after you go home unless you have drains. Do not soak in a tub or swimming pool. It is not necessary to keep your incision covered unless it makes you more comfortable. If you do not see metal clips or sutures, the sutures are under the skin and will dissolve in 3-4 weeks.

Call our office if you have: Temperature over 101.5F, redness or swelling at the incision site, drainage or fluid from incision that may be foul smelling, increased tenderness or soreness at the wound or the wound edges are no longer together,.

Follow up appointment: Please call our office at your convenience to schedule a follow-up visit 7-10 days after your surgery.