



Breast Implant Reconstruction / Tissue Expander Post-Operative Instructions

Sutures

The incisions are closed with dissolvable sutures that do not require removal. They are often hidden under the skin, so you will not see them and will dissolve naturally over a period of approximately 4 weeks, when the incisions are strong enough to support themselves.

Dressings

I use waterproof dressings to cover the incisions, which protects the wound for the first week and is removed at your first post-op appointment by the nurse.

The dressing enables you to shower as soon as you like, however, you will need to refrain from swimming and bathing for approximately 1 to 2 weeks.

Support garments

You are required to obtain 2 support bras, as you will want one to wash and one to wear. The bra has a strap at the upper border of the implants, which ensures they are kept in the correct position as the breast heals.

You will be advised as to which type and size of bra to purchase. My nurse can size you in clinic and advise you as to which garments to purchase prior to surgery. You can either buy these from the Hospital, or alternatively, we can provide you with the supplier details should you wish to obtain your own.

One will be applied on conclusion of the operation, so that you wake up wearing it.

They need to be worn continuously for 6 weeks after surgery, although you can remove them for washing.

Medication

During your surgery I will use a long-acting local anaesthetic block around the nerves that supply your breast. This reduces any pain that you may have for 72 hours after surgery, but you may need additional analgesia in the form of Tylenol and ibuprofen. I will also prescribe Tramadol if you are in significant pain, but most patients do not need this.



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You will be given antibiotics to take for 7 days after your surgery, which reduces any risk of infection whilst the incisions heal. The medications should be given to you before you go home, so please check with the nurse if you do not receive anything.

The hospital will provide you with TED garments to wear during and after your surgery to reduce the risk of a DVT in your legs. It is recommended that you continue to wear them until you are fully mobile. You may also be given anticoagulants to take if you are at a higher risk of a DVT or PE, although most patients do not require this.

Scar advice

Once the dressings are removed, I recommend that you massage the incisions using small circular motions at least twice a day for 5 minutes. You can use any moisturising cream of your choice and apply firm pressure until it blanches.

The scars will also benefit from silicone scar gel (ScarAway® or Kelo-Cote®) twice a day, which will soften and fade them, as well as applying sunblock for 12 months to provide sun protection.

The ScarAway® can be purchased from Healthcare Pharmacy at Governors Square in Grand Cayman.

Follow up

Before you are discharged from Hospital you will be given a follow up appointment to see the nurse after one week post-operatively.

I normally see you in the clinic 2 weeks following your procedure, depending on the surgery.

You should also be given contact numbers in the event of any problem. If you have any questions or concerns about your recovery, please do not hesitate to phone or email me and I will endeavour to get an answer to you the same day.

If it is more urgent then please contact the Clinic/Hospital. In the unlikely event of an emergency, you must visit your closest Emergency Department.



Anne Dancey
PLASTIC SURGERY

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I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or require a little more information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anne Dancey

Dr Anne Dancey

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