



Lindsey Pennington, MD
F A C I A L P L A S T I C S

Postoperative Instructions:

Buccal Fat Pad Surgery

Maximize your results after buccal fat pad surgery by following these basic posttreatment instructions. Please contact Dr. Pennington with any questions.

General

- Numbness around the area is common
- **No** smoking for 4 weeks post-surgery
- **No** Alcohol for 2 weeks post-surgery
- **No** aspirin, ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, or similar anti-inflammatory medication. Dr. Pennington will advise you when you may resume taking these medications.
 - o Other blood thinners, such as Coumadin or Plavix, must also be discontinued, under the guidance of your primary care physician.
- **No** herbal medications, supplements, or teas.
 - o Increased risk of bleeding includes, but are not limited to Vitamin E, garlic, ginger, ginkgo, ginseng, kava, and St. John's Wort, fish oil, and green tea
 - o Arnica Montana herbal *tablet* may help reduce bruising and swelling (this can be found at most drug stores such as whole foods, drug emporium, etc)

Diet

- Avoid hot food/drinks until all sensation returns to the cheeks
- When sensation returns, you may eat soft foods for the first 72 hours (mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, Jell-O etc.)

Activity

- **Sleep with your head elevated at a 45-degree angle in a recliner for the first 48 hours**, to help reduce facial swelling. If there is no way a recliner will be accessible after surgery, then this can be accomplished by putting pillows behind you in bed.
- Avoid sneezing. If unable to avoid sneezing, then sneeze with your mouth open.
- **Do NOT** bend over or hang your head down
- **No** heavy lifting, straining, strenuous activity, or sex for at least 2 weeks.
- Avoid excess lip movement, including lip massage, smiling, laughing, and excess speaking

Wound Care

- May use mouthwash to clean mouth – **do NOT use any mouthwash with alcohol in it.**
- Avoid playing with sutures in mouth with tongue

***** Please notify Dr. Pennington if you suffer from cold sores, as cold sores may occur with treatments around the mouth or lips. *****

Call Dr. Pennington if you develop:

- Fever greater than 100.4
- Sudden swelling or discoloration
- Hemorrhage
- Drainage from wound edges or other signs of infection
- Development of any drug reaction

Please do not hesitate to ever contact our office. (318-216-5366)