

## **Department of Surgery**

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## Simple Excision and/or Biopsy

While recovering from your surgery, please observe the following instructions:

- 1. Advance your diet slowly as tolerated. Drink plenty of fluids; at least six to eight 8oz glasses of water per day.
- 2. Take your pain medication as prescribed. You may use ibuprofen, 400-600mg every 8 hours, in addition to your prescribed medication if you do not have a history of ulcers or sensitivity to anti-inflammatory medications.
- 3. Narcotic pain medications can be very constipating. If you are taking prescription pain medication, please follow these instructions:
  - a. Use a stool softener such as Pericolace or Senokot one to two times per day. They are available over the counter.
  - b. Once off narcotic pain medications, you may want to switch to Citrucel or Benefiber, 1-2 tbsp in 8 oz of juice or water one to two times per day.
  - c. If you are off narcotic pain medications and start to have loose bowel movements, you may discontinue the Pericolace, Senokot, Citrucel or Benefiber if you're taking them.
- 4. You may remove the dressing over your incision(s) within 48 hours after surgery and take a shower. Do not leave a wet dressing on—it will promote infection. If you have tape strips (Steri-strips) over your incision(s), these can stay on while showering. They will typically fall off within 7-10 days.
- 5. Please call if you experience fevers, chills, painful enlarging swelling around incisions, redness or streaking around incisions, or persistent bleeding.
- 6. If you have not already scheduled a post-operative appointment, please call our office to schedule this appointment 7-10 days after surgery. Your final pathology report will usually be available for review at that time.

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