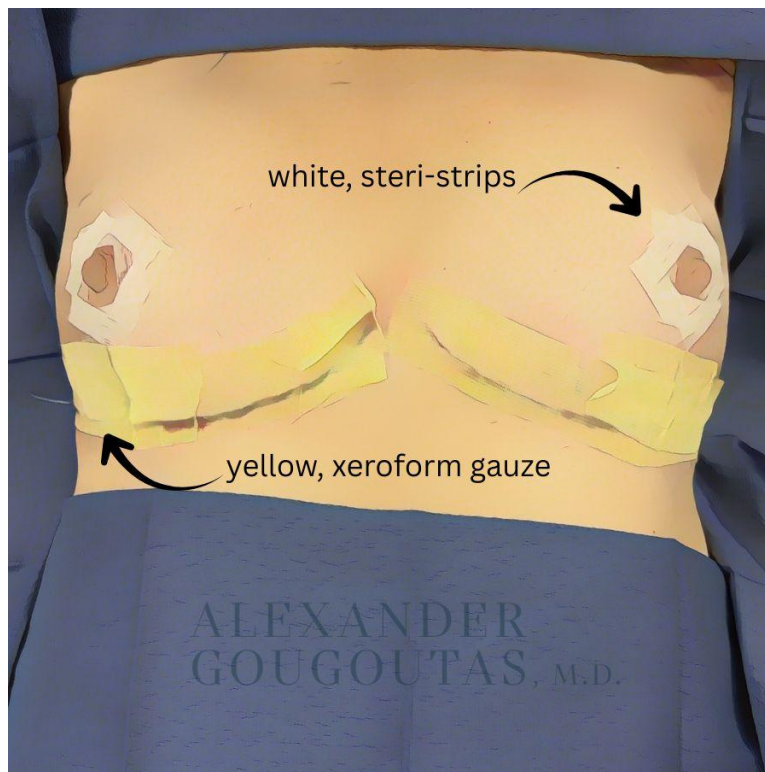




## Breast Reduction Discharge Instructions

### Surgical Dressings

- Your dressing consists of xeroform (yellow, sticky gauze) along the incisions under the breasts and Steri-strips (small white Band aids) around the nipples, ABD pads and a surgical bra.
- If you had liposuction performed there is waterproof tape around the drain sites.



### Showering

- You may remove all dressings and shower in 48 hours.
- The drains are covered with white tape which is designed to get wet and should be left in place until the drains are ready to be removed.
- Steri-strips are designed to get wet and will fall off on their own in 10-14 days. If they have not fallen off after this period it is ok to gently remove them yourself.



## **Dressings / Surgical Site Care**

- You may remove the xeroform and ABD pads after 48 hours.
- You may find it helpful to go to the drugstore and purchase MaxiPads to place over the incisions. There is no need to purchase sterile gauze as nothing will be sterile after the initial dressings are removed. MaxiPads are ideal as they are cheap and absorbent.
- Place either gauze or MaxiPads over the incisions before replacing the bra as this will prevent rubbing / irritation of the incision.
- If you had liposuction, you will have drains in place. Please follow the instructions provided for drain care. You may shower with the drains in place.

## **Surgical Bra**

- The surgical bra should be worn at all times when not showering for at least the first 4 weeks after surgery.
- You may find it helpful to purchase a bra that is more tailored to your body after the first 2 weeks. This bra should fasten in the front and be compressive, but not uncomfortable.
- A support bra should be worn at all times when exercising for at least 6 weeks after surgery. After this time, it is ok to wear an underwire bra.

## **Sleeping**

Sleep on your back for the first 2 weeks following surgery. After 2 weeks it is ok to start sleeping on your side. Do not sleep on your stomach for at least 6 weeks after surgery. You should sleep in a recliner or in bed with a few pillows behind your back for 2 weeks after surgery to reduce swelling.

## **Driving**

- Absolutely no driving while taking narcotic pain medications.
- It is ok to start driving for short distances 2-3 weeks following surgery (as long as not taking narcotic pain medications).
- Activity, including driving, may stir up fluid in the tissues for at least 3 weeks following surgery, therefore minimize driving as much as possible during this time.

## **Activity Rules of Thumb**



- If it hurts, DON'T DO IT.
- If lifting something with just the elbows is too heavy, then it should not be lifted.
- Mild stretching / pulling sensations are normal for at least the first 8 weeks after surgery, and activities that produce these sensations should not necessarily be avoided.

#### **Activity (First 2 weeks after surgery)**

You may be up and around your home the day of surgery as much as possible.

It is ok to do your activities of daily living immediately following surgery (going to the bathroom, brushing your hair/teeth, lifting the tv remote etc.)

Do not lift anything greater than 10-15 pounds for the first 2 weeks following surgery.

Do not lift arms at shoulders greater than 45 degrees.

Minimize contact with pets for at least 2 weeks following surgery as they can be a source of infection.

Hug a pillow when coughing or sneezing to provide support and help with discomfort.

#### **Activity (3-4 weeks after surgery)**

Do not elevate arms at shoulders greater than 90 degrees.

You may gradually increase lifting with your arms. Some gentle stretching is normal, but pain is not.

Lower body exercises are ok, but avoid any exercises that strain the chest muscles.

Cardiovascular exercise is ok, but should not exceed 15-30 minutes and should be limited to the elliptical machine or walking on the treadmill.

Yoga classes are fine, but do not lay on the breasts themselves.

#### **Activity (5-6 weeks after surgery)**

Longer cardiovascular exercise routines are ok.

You may elevate the arms above the head as tolerated.

By week 6, unless otherwise specified, there are no restrictions. Continue to listen to your body.

Please send us a message on MyChart with any specific activity questions during this time period.

#### **Diet**

- Eat as tolerated following surgery, but TAKE IT SLOW.



- It is best to start with liquids to see if they are tolerated (no nausea) before starting solid foods.

## **Pain Medication**

Take your pain medications as directed:

### **1. Tylenol (acetaminophen)**

- Should be taken every 6-8 hours consistently for at least the first 2 weeks after surgery.
- Maximum daily dose is 4000mg / day.
- Tylenol helps to augment other pain medications with little to no side effects

### **2. Oxycodone (or other narcotic)**

- Tends to make people sleepy and should be taken at night before you go to bed to keep your pain under control while you sleep. It may also be taken throughout the day as needed.
- This should be the first medication to be weaned off as it can cause many side effects, most notably constipation.

### **3. Ibuprofen (NSAID)**

- Anti-Inflammatory medication that should be started no sooner than 48 hours after surgery unless approved by Dr. Gougoutas.
- After 48 hours, post-surgical pain becomes mostly inflammatory in nature and anti-inflammatory drugs tend to work better than narcotics in most cases.
- Maximal dosage is 600-800mg every 8 hours.

### **4. Meloxicam (NSAID)**

- If you were prescribed meloxicam this should be taken once a day starting the morning after surgery, generally for 1 week.
- Meloxicam is also an NSAID and SHOULD NOT be taken with Ibuprofen.

## **What to Expect After Surgery:**

- You will be sore, and in some pain following surgery.
- Your pain should be manageable with the pain medications provided- only take these medications as prescribed.
- Inflammation / swelling / bruising typically peaks 36-48 hours following surgery, and thus pain can increase for up to 3 days following surgery, after which time it should start to gradually subside every day.



- Swelling, tightness and numbness are normal sensations for the first several weeks, at least, after surgery. This will subside with time as you heal.
- You may feel more tired and emotional for the first 7-10 days following surgery. This is a normal response to surgery and is not a cause for concern.
- Some minor bleeding may occur through the bandages or around the drain site for the first 24 hours after surgery.

## What To Look For

### 1. Check for excessive bleeding

- A small amount of spotting through the bandages is generally normal, particularly with liposuction.
- Any spotting through the bandages that continues to increase in size warrants a phone call.
- Rule of thumb: If you are concerned, call Dr. Gougoutas.

### 2. Check for infection

- Infection very rarely develops before 7-10 days post-operatively.
- A low-grade fever ( $<101.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) is very common after surgery and is not a cause for concern. Fevers greater than  $101.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  warrant a phone call / MyChart message for possible evaluation.
- Increasing redness around the incision sites also warrants a phone call / MyChart message for possible evaluation.
- Feeling suddenly worse after a steady improvement in your post-operative course also warrants a phone call / MyChart message for possible evaluation.
- Drainage from an incision more than 3-4 days after surgery warrants a phone call / MyChart message for possible evaluation.

## Anesthesia Discharge Instructions

The medications used during your surgery will linger in your system for at least 24 hours. Therefore, during this time:

**DO NOT** drive a car, operate machinery, or power tools  
**DO NOT** drink alcohol, take tranquilizers, or sleeping pills  
**DO NOT** make legally binding decisions

A responsible adult should transport you (or accompany you in ride share / taxi) to your recovery location (*home, a friend's house, hotel etc.*) and **remain with you** for the first 24 hours.

If you are from out of town and staying at a nearby hotel, you **MUST** use a vehicle to transport you to your hotel regardless of distance. You may not walk.



### **Post-Surgery RN Call**

A nurse from the surgery center will call you the following business day to see how you are progressing. If you have problems or concerns, please call our office at any time (206) 860-5582. **If you have an urgent issue, please do not use MyChart messaging, as this is not monitored outside of our regular business hours.**

#### **What to Do If the Office Is Closed**

##### **Prior to calling, please refer to your discharge instructions**

If your question cannot be answered in your discharge instructions, or cannot wait until our office is open, please call (206) 860-5582. You will reach an operator who will page Dr. Gougoutas.

Drains will not be removed over the weekend. If you have a drain in place, and the amount goes below 30cc over the weekend, please call on Monday to make an appointment for drain removal.

**In case of a medical emergency – call 911 immediately**