

Colon Resection

Post-Operative Instructions

Elizabeth Henderson, MD

Your first post-operative visit will be approximately 10-14 days after surgery unless other instructions are given. Please call the office after discharge from the hospital to confirm your appointment.

Wound Care: You may change the gauze and tape at any time after you return home. You may shower but do not soak in the tub, pool, ocean, or a river. Do not place any lotion or ointment on the incisions. **Call the office if there are any signs of infection such as pain, redness, or persistent drainage.**

Diet: At home try to stay with a low fat, bland diet. The most important thing is to listen to your body. It is normal to not feel like eating a huge meal at a time so eating four or five smaller meals a day will help. Do not overeat. Avoid fried or greasy foods and carbonated drinks. Drink plenty of water and Gatorade to stay hydrated.

Bowel Habits: It is normal to have diarrhea or loose stool for the first few weeks after your surgery. If it persists or you develop watery diarrhea, please call the office. This could be a sign of a bowel infection. There may also be some blood with your first few bowel movements- this is normal and should slow down. If it does not, please call the office.

Activity: You should walk around the house at least four times a day. Do not lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk for 6 weeks after your surgery to prevent a hernia from forming. Refrain from strenuous activity or sexual intercourse until after your follow up visit. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery for at least 7 to 10 days after your surgery or until you are pain free, off narcotics, and are not hindered in any way. We will discuss when you can return to work in the office. If you have any paperwork that needs to be completed for your job, please fax it in as soon as possible or bring it in with you to the office.

Medication: Continue to take Tylenol and Aleve at home as scheduled. Tylenol 650 mg up to four times a day and Aleve 220 mg up to twice a day for up to a week. You can then start to wean yourself from these medications. You will be given a prescription for a mild narcotic painkiller such as Vicodin or Norco for breakthrough pain. Start with one pill and take it every four to six hours as needed. If that is not enough, you can take two pills at a time. These medications can make you nauseated so take with some crackers or a small meal.

Call the office if: You have a fever of 101.5F or greater. You have nausea and/or vomiting for more than 24 hours or if you stop passing gas and/or stool for more than 24 hours.

Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns at 830-484-4606