

Otoplasty

Pre & Post Operative Instructions

Understanding Local Anesthesia:

- ☐ **Local Anesthesia Only:** This option involves the use of medications like Lidocaine to numb the specific area of your body where the surgery will be performed. You remain fully awake and alert during the procedure, feeling no pain in the treated area. This method is ideal for patients who prefer the simplest form of anesthesia, allowing for a quicker recovery time and minimal postoperative side effects.
 - You do not need to fast, and may eat & drink whenever you choose.
 - You may drive yourself home & do not require a caregiver after surgery.

Shopping List

- ☐ Tylenol (Acetaminophen): Alternative to narcotic pain medication if pain is not severe. Do NOT take NSAIDS (such as Ibuprofen & others).

Pre-Operative Instructions

Medication Management Before Surgery: Guidelines for Minimizing Bleeding Risks

These are general recommendations. For more information please refer to the email: [Preoperative Instructions for Your Upcoming Surgery](#) &/or contact our office for a safe plan tailored to your health needs and surgical procedure

- **Aspirin and NSAIDs:** Please discontinue use at least 3 weeks before your surgery, unless otherwise directed by your surgeon.
- **Anticoagulants (Warfarin, Heparin, Direct Oral Anticoagulants):** The discontinuation schedule varies. Please consult your surgeon at least 3 weeks before surgery to discuss

a tailored plan, which may include temporary adjustments to your regimen or bridging therapy.

- **Herbal Supplements and Vitamins:** Discontinue any herbal supplements and vitamins that can increase bleeding risk, such as vitamin E, fish oil, ginkgo biloba, and garlic, at least 2 weeks prior to surgery.

The Day of Surgery: Your Preparation Guide

On the day of your surgery at Asia Pacific Surgery, we prioritize your comfort, safety, and the success of your procedure. To help everything go smoothly, please follow these guidelines carefully:

- **Showering**
 - Please take a shower with mild soap on the morning of your surgery. This step is essential for minimizing infection risks.
 - After showering, do not apply lotions, creams, deodorants, or any other products to your skin, especially in the area where surgery will be performed.
- **Jewelry and Valuables:** Remove all jewelry and refrain from bringing valuables to the clinic, including piercings from the neck up.
 - If you have metal hair extensions (such as clip-in or microbead extensions), please inform your nurse before surgery.
- **Makeup and Skincare Products:** DO NOT wear any makeup or apply skincare products on the day of your surgery.
- **Clothing:** Opt for loose, comfortable clothing that doesn't need to be pulled over your head, particularly if your surgery involves the upper body. A button-up or zip-front top is ideal for after the surgery.
- **Communicating Questions or Concerns:** If you have any last-minute questions or concerns, please get in touch with us immediately. See the last page of this document for contact information.

Our team is committed to making sure you feel fully prepared and confident in the care you'll receive.

Post-Operative Instructions

Medications

- Tylenol (Acetaminophen):
 - Pain Relief: Tylenol is safe to take for managing pain. Please avoid NSAIDs such as Ibuprofen and Aleve, as they can increase the risk of bleeding.
- Narcotic Pain Medication:
 - Prescription Medication: If you received a prescription for narcotic pain relievers, take them as directed for pain management. Be aware that these medications can cause constipation.
 - Preventing Constipation: You will be prescribed a laxative and a stool softener to prevent constipation. It's important to start taking these with your first dose of narcotic pain medication. Additionally, increasing dietary fiber, fluid intake, and physical activity can help manage constipation.
- Zofran (Ondansetron):
 - Nausea Prevention: Zofran is prescribed to help prevent nausea and vomiting, which can be common after surgery. Take this medication as directed, particularly before meals or as soon as you feel nauseated.
- Antibiotics:
 - Infection Prevention: If you've been prescribed antibiotics, it's crucial to complete the full course as directed, even if you start feeling better. This helps prevent infection and ensures the effectiveness of the treatment.
- Sinnech (Arnica Montana):
 - Reducing Swelling and Bruising: Sinnech is a homeopathic Arnica montana regimen that you'll take to help reduce swelling and bruising. This can potentially speed up your recovery process. Please follow the specific dosage instructions provided.

Nutrition

- Diet: Start with small light meals and progress as tolerated.
- Hydration: Stay hydrated with plenty of water. A general guideline is to aim for at least 8-10 glasses of water per day (about 2 to 2.5 liters). Limit or avoid caffeine and alcohol.

Activity

- **Physical Activity:** Normal daily activity may be resumed a few days after surgery. Avoid bending or straining for one to two weeks. Be extremely careful if wearing any "pull-over the head" clothing.
- **Exercise:** Light physical activity may be resumed 2-3 weeks after surgery. Remember to start easy and build back up to your previous exercise levels. At 6-8 weeks or when instructed by your surgeon, more intense exercise can be started. Just know that swelling may transiently be worse with exercise.
- **Glasses:** Be careful when wearing reading glasses or sunglasses for the first two weeks. You do not want them to put too much pressure on the ears or rub against the incision line.
- **Return to work:** Most patients require approximately 5-7 days off work depending on their job responsibilities.

Bathing

- **Showering:** You may shower with regular soap and water the day following surgery.
- **Hot Tubs/Baths/Swimming Pools/Ocean.** No tub baths or Jacuzzi until your incisions have healed, and approved by your surgeon, which is usually around 2 weeks. It is best to wait one month for hot tubs as they tend to have more bacteria than regular chlorinated swimming pools.

How to Care for Your Incisions

- **Incision Care:** Starting the day after your surgery, gently clean the incision area daily with mild soap and water. Regular soap is sufficient; antibacterial soap is not necessary and is not recommended.
- **Stitches:** Avoid picking at the stitches. Your surgeon will remove any necessary stitches during your post-operative appointment. The remaining stitches will dissolve on their own.
- **Sun Exposure:** Minimize sun exposure to the incision area. Always use SPF 30 or higher when outdoors, as even a mild sunburn can increase swelling, irritate healing incisions, and cause permanent scar discoloration.

What to Expect

- **Drainage:** Drainage can occur from the incision sites for the first week. The drainage will be blood tinged. You may use gauze or a light pad to reinforce post-op dressings if this occurs.
- **Bruising:** You can expect to have bruises. Most bruises will heal after about 2-3 weeks. The bruise will go from a purplish color to a yellow/green shade as it starts to resolve.
- **Swelling:** Swelling is to be expected for weeks and sometimes months. The swelling can improve with intermittent rest and use of the headband. Exercise and physical activity can transiently worsen swelling but is encouraged.
- **Itching:** Itching at the incision sites is normal for a few days. You may take Benadryl to help with this.
- **Pain:** It is normal to experience tightness, pressure, soreness, itchiness, and fatigue for several days to weeks following surgery as you recover.
- **Sensory Changes in Skin:** You may feel numbness at the incision lines and surrounding areas. This is normal and should subside after a few weeks.

Emotional Recovery

It's normal to experience a range of emotions after surgery, especially when the appearance of your body changes. Some patients feel relief, while others may go through moments of doubt or grief. Please know that these feelings are valid and part of the healing process. You're not alone, and support is available if you need it.

Signs of Infection or Complications

It's important to monitor your recovery and be aware of any signs that may indicate an infection or complication. Contact your surgeon immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Increased redness, warmth, or swelling around the incision site
- Pus-like or foul-smelling drainage from the wound
- Fever over 101°F (38.3°C)
- Severe pain that is not relieved by prescribed medication
- Excessive bleeding or new bruising
- Persistent chills or feeling unwell

Prompt communication with your healthcare team ensures the best possible recovery. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have concerns.

Follow-up Care

- **Prioritizing Appointments:** Attending follow-up appointments is crucial for monitoring your recovery & ensuring the effectiveness of your treatment.

Patient Communication Guide: Who to Contact Post-Operation

Type of Concern	Contact Information	Instructions/Examples
Non-Urgent Questions or Concerns for Dr. Ching or Dr. Long	Email: clinicalrn@drshimching.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recovery questions • Appointment inquiries • Prescription refills
Urgent Questions or Concerns	Office Phone: (808) 585-8855 <u>After 5pm or on weekends:</u> Dr. Ching & Dr. Long @ Physician's Exchange (808) 524-2575	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling, bruising, or redness • Severe pain • High fever • Unusual discharge or odor • Uncontrolled bleeding
Medical Emergencies	Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty breathing • Chest pain • Severe calf pain • Signs of heart attack or pulmonary embolism

Our Commitment to You:

We are here to support you throughout your recovery journey. Your safety is our priority, and we encourage open communication. By guiding you on the most appropriate communication channels for your concerns, we aim to provide efficient and effective care, ensuring you feel fully supported & cared for.