

# Breast Implant Removal

## Pre & Post Operative Instructions

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### Understanding Your Surgery with General Anesthesia:

- **General Anesthesia:** This type of anesthesia renders you completely unconscious during the procedure, ensuring you feel no pain and have no memory of the surgery. It is typically used for more extensive operations and requires careful monitoring by an anesthesiologist.
  - **Instructions:** Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours before surgery. This includes water, mints, candy, or gum.
  - **Post-Surgery Transportation:** It is mandatory to arrange for a ride home from surgery with a family member or friend. Patients may not use taxis or Ubers.
    - **Why?:** After surgery, especially with general anesthesia, it's important for your safety to have someone responsible to take you home and provide care for at least 1-2 days. This ensures that you have the necessary support during the initial critical recovery period. If you do not arrange for transportation and care for at least 1-2 days, then your surgery may be canceled, at your expense.

### Shopping List

- ☐ **Tylenol (Acetaminophen):** Alternative to narcotic pain medication if pain is not severe. Do NOT take NSAIDS (such as Ibuprofen & others).
- ☐ **Compression Bra or Supportive Sports Bra (no underwire):** You may be advised to wear a compression or soft supportive bra postoperatively. Your surgeon will give specific instructions on duration and fit at your first follow-up appointment.

## 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.
- **ADD / ADHD medications** are to be avoided the day before surgery.
- **Contrave (Naltrexone-containing meds):** Patient must consult with the prescribing physician about when & how to stop this medication prior to surgery.
- **Weight Loss Meds (Ozempic, Wegovy, Semaglutide, ect.), & Biotin.:** are to be stopped 2 weeks prior to surgery.
- **Illicit Drug Use:** Please be honest about any illicit drug use during the preoperative assessment. Your safety is our priority and accurate medical information is crucial for planning a safe and effective surgical procedure.
  - Illicit drug use can have significant interactions with anesthesia and other medications administered during surgery, potentially leading to complications.
  - **Examples of the most important substances to mention include:**
    - Cocaine & Meth.

**Consultation Is Key:** If you are taking any of the above medications or supplements for chronic conditions, do not stop them without first consulting with the physician who prescribed them and your surgeon.

Together, we will develop a safe plan tailored to your health needs and surgical procedure.

## 4 Weeks Before Surgery

- **Reducing/Stopping Nicotine:** We strongly recommend reducing or ideally stopping nicotine (including cigarettes, oral tobacco, e-cigarettes with nicotine, patches, lozenges, and/or gums) for 4 weeks before and after your surgery.
  - **Why?:** Nicotine can significantly hinder your healing process and increase the risk of complications. Nicotine constricts blood vessels, which can impair blood flow to the surgical area, affecting healing and recovery. Any reduction in nicotine exposure is beneficial and contributes positively to your surgical outcome.

## 2 Weeks Before Surgery

- **Alcohol Consumption:** We encourage patients to reduce or stop alcohol consumption for at least 2 weeks before and after surgery.
  - **Why?:** Alcohol can increase the risk of bruising, swelling, and can prolong the healing process. Reducing alcohol intake, even if complete cessation is challenging, but can significantly improve your recovery experience.

## 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:

- **Shower or Bath:** On the day of surgery, please take a shower or bath using soap (either antimicrobial or non-antimicrobial).
  - **Avoid Applying Products:** Do not apply any lotions, perfumes, or other products to your skin after bathing.
- **Medications:**
  - **Blood Pressure Medications:**
    - Take your blood pressure medication as usual, including the day of surgery. On the day of surgery, take it with only a small sip of water.
  - **Diabetes Medications:**
    - DO NOT take any oral and/or injectable diabetic meds the night before or the morning of surgery.

- Only take medications approved or prescribed by your surgeon with a small sip of water.
- **Fasting:** Adhere to the fasting instructions provided by your surgical team. Typically, this means no eating or drinking, including water, for 8 hours before your surgery.
- **Jewelry and Valuables:** Remove all jewelry and refrain from bringing valuables to the clinic, including piercings from the neck up. We cannot take responsibility for lost items.
- **Makeup and Skincare Products:** DO NOT wear any makeup or apply skincare products on the day of your surgery.
- **Shaving:** If shaving is necessary in the area to be operated on, please do so 3 days prior to your surgery date. Shaving closer to your surgery date, including the day before or the day of, is not advised as it can increase the risk of surgical site infections.
- **Clothing:** Opt for loose, comfortable clothing that doesn't need to be pulled over your head. A button-up or zip-front top is ideal for after the surgery.
- **Expect a flatter chest contour post-op:** Depending on your natural breast tissue and whether a lift or fat transfer is planned, you may have visible skin laxity or deflation initially.
- **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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

- 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.
- Meal Approach: If you have a reduced appetite, eat small, frequent meals.

## Activity

- **DVT Prevention:** It's important to start walking as soon as possible after surgery to help prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), a condition where blood clots can form in the veins, usually in the legs. Gentle movement improves blood circulation and reduces the risk of clots. Begin with short walks around your home and gradually increase your activity as recommended by your surgeon.
- **Exercise:** Light activity may resume a few days after surgery. You can gradually restart an exercise regimen around 1 week post-op, beginning gently and building back up to your previous levels. Swelling may temporarily worsen with increased activity.
- **Return to Work:** Most patients require 2–5 days off depending on their job duties. A gradual return with a light schedule can ease the transition.
- **Driving:**
  - Do not drive while taking narcotic pain medication.
  - Most patients can resume driving safely after 1–2 weeks once they are off narcotics, have good arm mobility, and feel safe controlling the car.
  - Avoid long drives or manual-shift driving for about 3 weeks.
- **Sexual Intercourse:** You may resume sexual activity when you feel ready and comfortable. Avoid pressure on the chest and stop if any discomfort arises.
- **Showering:** You may shower the day after surgery. Your incisions are covered with waterproof dressings & require no special care during this time.
- **Hot Tubs/Baths/Swimming Pools.** Avoid soaking in water until your incisions are fully healed and cleared by your surgeon—typically around 2 weeks.
  - Hot tubs should be avoided for at least 1 month due to increased bacterial exposure.

## How to Care for Your Incisions

- **Incisions:** Your incisions are sealed with waterproof surgical glue to protect the area during healing. The glue will naturally fall off over time, so please do not remove it.
- **Stitches:** All stitches are dissolvable and will not require removal.
- **Drains:**  
You may go home with one or more Jackson-Pratt (JP) drains after your surgery. These drains help remove excess fluid from the surgical site and are usually kept in place for 1-2 weeks, depending on your recovery.
  - For detailed instructions on how to care for your drains at home, please refer to the [Jackson-Pratt \(JP\) Drain Home Care Instructions](#) provided by our team.

## What to Expect

- **Bruising:** Some bruising is normal after surgery. Most bruises will fade within 2-3 weeks, changing from a purplish color to yellow or green as they heal.
- **Itching:** Itching around the incision sites is normal for a few days after surgery. You may take Benadryl to help relieve the itching if needed.
- **Pain:** It's common to experience tightness, pressure, soreness, itching, and/or fatigue for several days to weeks.
- **Crackling/Sloshing Sounds:** You may hear crackling or sloshing sounds in the chest due to air or fluid in the surgical pocket. This is normal and usually resolves within 5–7 days.
- **Sensation Changes:** Temporary numbness, tingling, or hypersensitivity near the chest or armpit area is common and usually improves over time.
- **Drainage & Swelling:**
  - Expect some light drainage from the incision sites, particularly within the first 24–72 hours.
  - Swelling is normal and will subside gradually over the next few weeks.
- **Chest Contour & Skin Changes**  
You may experience:
  - Flattened or sagging appearance depending on your native tissue
  - Skin rippling or wrinkling
  - Asymmetry that resolves gradually
  - Chest wall soreness, especially with deep breaths or stretching

## 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
- Sudden return of swelling, firmness, or sharp localized pain on one side.
- Redness spreading outward from the incision site after 3–5 days

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 and ensuring the effectiveness of your treatment. Please prioritize these appointments to ensure optimal care and address any concerns you may have.



## 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: <a href="mailto:clinicalrn@drshimching.com">clinicalrn@drshimching.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General recovery questions</li> <li>• Appointment inquiries</li> <li>• Prescription refills</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Swelling, bruising, or redness</li> <li>• Severe pain</li> <li>• High fever</li> <li>• Unusual discharge or odor</li> <li>• Uncontrolled bleeding</li> </ul>
Medical Emergencies	Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Severe calf pain</li> <li>• Signs of heart attack or pulmonary embolism</li> </ul>

## 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.