

# Buccal Fat Pad Removal

## Pre & Post Operative Instructions

---

### Local Anesthesia Instructions: 2 Options

- Option A: 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.
  
- Option B: Local Anesthesia with Sedation:** This option combines local anesthesia with oral sedative medications to help you relax during the procedure. While you will be awake, the local anesthetic ensures you do not feel pain at the surgery site, and the sedatives help create a more comfortable and less anxious experience. This method is often chosen by patients who may feel nervous about the surgery but prefer not to undergo general anesthesia.
  - **Instructions:** Nothing to eat or drink for 3 hours before surgery. This includes water, mints, candy, or gum.
  - **Post-Surgery Transportation:** It is essential to arrange for a ride home from surgery with a family member or friend. Patients may not use taxis or Ubers.
    - **Why?:** After surgery, 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.

### Shopping List

- Tylenol (Acetaminophen):** This is a good alternative to narcotic pain medication, if your pain is not severe. DO NOT take NSAIDS (i.e.) Ibuprofen, naproxen, until the second week after surgery.

- Over-the-Counter Mouthwash:** Use twice daily for the first two weeks to reduce infection risk. A mild, alcohol-free mouthwash that is gentle and designed for sensitive oral tissues is recommended.
- Soft Foods:** Have a variety of soft or semi-liquid foods (e.g., soups, smoothies, mashed potatoes) for the first few days after surgery.

## 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.
- **Jewelry and Valuables:** Remove all jewelry and refrain from bringing valuables to the clinic, including piercings.

- 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.
- **Menstruation and Surgery**
  - If you are on your menstrual period on the day of surgery, you may wear a sanitary pad or disposable underwear.
  - For safety reasons, internal menstrual products (such as tampons or menstrual cups) are not used.
  - After surgery, if you need menstrual supplies before leaving the facility, pads can be provided upon request. Application of any menstrual product is performed by the patient.
- **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.
- **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

### The Night of Surgery

- **Head Elevation:** Sleep on your back with your head elevated about 30-40 degrees (2-3 pillows) to minimize swelling.
- **Physical Activity:** Avoid strenuous activity. Move around the house to prevent blood clots from developing.

### Medications

- Tylenol is safe to take for pain.
- DO NOT use NSAIDS (such as Ibuprofen & Aleve).

### 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

- **Exercise:** Make sure you are up and walking around immediately after your surgery. Gentle movement helps to improve circulation and reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a condition where blood clots can form due to prolonged inactivity.
- **Smoking:** If you smoke, do your best to stop, as smoking can cause facial surgery complications and poor cosmetic results.

### How to Care for Your Incisions

- **Cleaning Your Incisions:** After buccal fat pad removal surgery, it is crucial to maintain proper oral hygiene to reduce the risk of infection. Use an alcohol-free, gentle mouthwash twice daily for the first two weeks following your surgery. Avoid mouthwashes with strong antiseptics, intense flavors, or artificial colorants, as they can cause irritation.

- Use an alcohol-free mouthwash to prevent dryness and irritation.
- Opt for a mouthwash formulated for sensitive oral tissues.
- Rinse twice daily for 2 weeks.

**Crusting:** Occasionally, crusting may occur around the sutures. Do not attempt to remove this yourself; it is normal and will resolve. Daily rinsing with mouthwash will help minimize crusting.

**Dissolvable Sutures:** The sutures used inside your mouth are dissolvable and do not require removal. They will dissolve on their own within 7-10 days.

## Post-Surgery Cold Therapy (optional)

- **When to Start:** Begin icing your face 24-48 hours after surgery to help reduce swelling and discomfort.
- **How to Ice:** Use a plastic bag filled with crushed ice or ice packs.
- **Barrier:** Always place a wash-cloth between the ice and your skin to prevent frostbite or irritation. Never apply ice directly to your skin.
- **Timing:** Apply ice to the affected area for 15-20 minutes at a time, then remove the ice for at least 40 minutes to allow your skin to recover. Repeat this cycle as needed for the first 48-72 hours post-surgery.
- **When to Stop:** Discontinue icing once the majority of the swelling has subsided, usually around 3 days after surgery. Consult your surgeon if you are unsure whether to continue.
- **Important Notes:**
  - Be gentle when applying ice to avoid disturbing any dressings, sutures, or delicate skin areas.
  - Excessive or prolonged icing may cause skin damage, so stick to the timing guidelines above.

## What to Expect

- **Swelling and Discoloration:** Swelling and bruising are expected and will improve over 2-3 weeks.
- **Numbness:** Numbness of the cheeks may last 3-6 months.
- **Pain and Itching:** Sharp pains or itching are normal and will resolve in a few weeks.

## 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 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>
<b>Medical Emergencies</b>	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.