

# Alar Base Reduction

## Pre & Post Operative Instructions

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### Your Surgery: Please check the appropriate box

**General Anesthesia Case:**

**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.

**OR**

**Local Anesthesia Case: (please also select either option A or B)**

- **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): 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.
- **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, you 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.
  
- Fasting: Adhere to the fasting instructions provided by your surgical team. Typically, this means no eating or drinking, including water, for either 3 or 8 hours before your surgery. Check your paperwork or email our office for further guidance, if needed. This information will be on the 1st page of this document.
- 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.
- 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

- Sleep on your back for the first two weeks to support healing. Use two pillows to keep your head elevated and prevent rolling onto your face while sleeping.

### 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

- 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

- **Movement is Important:** Make sure you are up and walking around immediately after your surgery. This helps prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), a condition where blood clots form in the veins, usually in the legs. Start with gentle walks around your home and gradually increase activity as recommended by your surgeon.
- **Sneezing:** Avoid sneezing through your nose. Instead, try to sneeze through your mouth.
- **Exercise:** Avoid contact sports, yoga, and strenuous workouts for 2 months to prevent complications. If exercise or sports are an important part of your routine, please consult your surgeon for personalized advice, as every patient's healing process is unique.
- **Sun Exposure:** Protect incisions from direct sunlight for up to 12 months. Use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 45 daily and/or a hat.

## Bathing and Water Exposure

- **Bathing and Soaking:** Please refrain from soaking your face in bathtubs, pools, hot tubs, or the ocean while your sutures are in place, as this can increase the risk of infection and interfere with the healing process.

## How to Care for Your Incisions

- Removable sutures are typically used and can be removed about 7 days following your surgery. This will be done at our clinic.
- You may have mild bleeding from the incision site that can last a few days.
- Your nose may be painful and tender for 2-3 weeks.
- Avoid applying makeup to the incision sites for 2-3 weeks to prevent infections.

## 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.

## Common Post-Operative Concerns About Nasal Appearance

- **Bruising and Swelling:** It's common to experience more bruising or swelling on one side of the nose. This variation is normal and often relates to the amount of bleeding during surgery.
- **Nostril Size and Symmetry:** The nostrils may appear larger or somewhat uneven initially. This effect is typically due to swelling and generally improves gradually over time.
- **Upper Lip Stiffness:** Stiffness in the upper lip post-surgery is common. It may restrict movement, temporarily affecting your smile. This is generally caused by swelling at the nose's base and usually resolves, particularly after the first two 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 & 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@asiapacificaesthetics.com	<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.