

Drs. Bartolozzi, Magalski & Harrison  
General, Laparoscopic and Oncologic Surgery

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Discharge Instructions  
Breast Biopsy

Call the office for an appointment for 7 to 10 days after surgery. The pathology result usually takes 3 to 5 days to come back and we will try to call you as soon as possible after we receive the results.

Drink plenty of liquids. It is not unusual to have some nausea after surgery, especially if you had general anesthesia. You may resume a normal diet but avoid anything that might make you nauseous (i.e., spicy or greasy foods)

Wear a tight, supportive bra for the next couple of days. Bruising, swelling and/or tenderness at or near the incision are not unusual. Ice packs may help to alleviate some of these symptoms (do not use ice packs for longer than 20 minutes at a time).

Remove the outer gauze dressings 24 hours after surgery. Leave the Steri-strips ("butterfly strips") in place until seen by the doctor in follow-up. You may shower / get the wound wet after you remove the outer dressing. Do not go swimming or soak the wound in a bath until after the first post-operative office visit. You do not need to cover the wound unless it becomes irritated by clothing.

Take the prescribed pain medication as directed / needed. You may take ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) if the pain is only mild. Avoid taking additional Tylenol as the pain medication you have been prescribed contains Tylenol. The prescribed pain medication may make you constipated - if you do not have a bowel movement for more than two days, take an over the counter laxative.

You may resume any previous medications you were on before the surgery. If you are on any blood thinners, such as aspirin, Plavix or Coumadin, please tell the doctor.

You may resume physical activities as tolerated. If your incision is near the axilla (armpit) you should avoid doing any strenuous activity or heavy lifting with the arm on that side.

Call the office if you have fevers, shakes chills, drainage, excessive bleeding from the wound or any other signs of infection. These instructions are guidelines for the more common questions people have after surgery. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in the above, please call us.