

Postoperative Care after Septoplasty/Turbinate Reduction

About Postoperative Care Visits

Post-operative office visits are an important part of the surgery, since they help promote healing and prevent the development of scar tissue. During these visits, the stents in the nose will be removed, and the surgical cavity is cleaned and inspected.

Your first post-operative visit will occur typically within the first 2 weeks after surgery.

Although complications from the manipulations performed during the post-operative visits are very rare, the theoretical risks are the same as the surgery itself. Consent for surgery includes consent for post-operative care, since the surgery and post-operative care are so closely related.

Failure to follow the postop care regimen can adversely affect the outcome of the surgery.

What can I expect to experience after septoplasty and turbinate reduction?

Immediately after surgery, you will not notice a significant improvement in your breathing. Do not worry – this is normal. It often takes a few days to weeks for the swelling to go down so that you can notice the improvement. Additionally, when the stents are removed – only then will you begin to notice the improvement.

You can expect some bleeding from your nose for several days after the surgery. When bleeding occurs down the front of your nose or into the back of your throat, you should tilt your head back while sitting up and breathe gently through your nose. If bleeding persists for an extended period of time, please call the office.

Important Instructions for the Postoperative Period

- You will have a drip pad or “mustache dressing” in place after surgery to catch any oozing you may have. Change this as needed. Once the oozing slows or stops, you can take the dressing off. Oozing for the first few days after surgery is normal.
- Start your nasal sprays or irrigations on the day after surgery. You will be given instructions on how to perform the irrigations if they are necessary.
- Do not blow your nose for two weeks after surgery. (Occasionally, you will be given instructions not to blow your nose for longer periods of time.)
- Do not bend, lift or strain for two weeks after surgery. These activities will promote bleeding from your nose. You should not participate in rigorous activity until healing is completed.
- Do not suppress the need to cough or sneeze; instead, cough or sneeze with your mouth open.
- Take your prescribed medications as directed by your physician. If you were given opioid pain medication, this has Tylenol in it – so do not take extra Tylenol. Do not drive while taking opioid pain medication. If you were given antibiotics, please take them with a probiotic or at least eat yogurt every day to help prevent any GI issues.

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- If you are on aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin), anti-platelet drugs (clopidogrel, or Plavix, plus many others), and/or any other blood thinner, be sure to discuss this with your surgeon before surgery. You will be given specific instructions for these medications for the period immediately before and after surgery.
- In general, you may resume other medications on the day after surgery. If you have any questions, please ask your physician.

Remember! Please call us immediately if you note fever (temperature above 100.5° F), clear watery drainage from your nose, changes in your vision, eye swelling, worsening headache and/or neck stiffness. Do not hesitate to contact our office for any questions and for any possible emergency situation. If necessary, do not hesitate to go to the emergency department nearest to you for immediate care. Our main office number is (859) 257-5405 and our after-hours number is (859) 323-5321 (ask for the ENT on call).