

**ROD J. ROHRICH, M.D.**  
**PLASTIC SURGERY**

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**ADBOMINOPLASTY**  
**(Tummy Tuck)**  
**AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

- IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET OUT OF BED EARLY AND OFTEN AFTER YOUR SURGERY (WITH ASSISTANCE) TO PREVENT POSTOPERATIVE PROBLEMS. PLEASE TAKE 15-20 DEEP BREATHS PER HOUR FREQUENTLY TO KEEP YOUR LUNGS CLEAR.
- It is important to walk slightly “stooped over” (bent at the hips) for 3-5 days to release tension on the suture line. Sleep with your hips in a flexed position. These instructions aid in the quality of your scar.
- Take your pain pills, herbal supplements, and Valium/Xanax as directed for the first 2-3 days to manage your discomfort.
- Keep your head elevated about 30 degrees and leave your knees slightly flexed.
- Though it is impossible to get rid of gas entirely, there are strategies to reduce it. Eat and drink slowly, chew thoroughly and cut down on carbonated drinks. Avoid sugar-free gums and sugar-free candies that contain sorbitol or xylitol – both sweeteners are poorly digested. If gas is painful and persistent, call our office.
- Stay on a soft diet, high in protein, for 2-3 days and avoid spicy food which can cause nausea and gas. Then you may resume a normal, high protein diet.
- Keep your drainage bulbs collapsed and record time and amounts of drainage over a 24-hour period. All patients heal differently according to many factors. Dr. Rohrich will make the decision regarding drain removal and necessity of office visits. (Generally, the drains will be removed when the drainage is 30cc or less in a 24-hour period, which usually occurs in 10-14 days.) You may shower in 2-3 days; make sure someone is with you at your first shower!
- Wear a binder (compression garment) continuously for 10-14 days. You can take it off to shower after 3 days. We will do the 1<sup>st</sup> dressing change in our office.
- You will have a clear skin glue dressing (Dermabond) over your incision. This will protect the incision for 7-10 days. You can shower with the Dermabond on. If you have sutures, they will be removed in 10-12 days and you will wear steri-strips for 3-4 weeks. (We will provide the steri-strips.) After all sutures have been removed, begin scar treatment: for the first 6 weeks apply a small amount of Eraclea PURE HYDRATION SERUM over all incisions AM & PM. From 6 weeks to 6 months, use Eraclea INTENSIVE REPAIR and RECONSTRUCTION CREAM over all incisions AM & PM as directed by Dr. Rohrich (see scar care instructions). These products can be purchased at both the UT Southwestern and Park Lane locations.
- Please call Dr. Rohrich immediately at any sign of infection which would be signaled by fever, increased pain, new redness or swelling in the abdominal area.

- You may resume sexual activity in 4 weeks. For the first 10 days following surgery, raising your blood pressure (heart rate) will cause bleeding. Abdominal stress on your muscles will stretch or break the sutures if you exercise before 4 weeks. At four weeks you should consider passive or less vigorous sexual activity that will not cause abdominal movement.

**ABDOMINOPLASTY (Tummy Tuck)  
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS (continued)**

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**POST-OP**

- Please do not drive for 7-10 days
- Do not lift anything heavier than 10 lbs for 3 weeks
- It is good to walk for 15-20 minutes 6 times per day
- Do not take aspirin or products containing aspirin for 3 weeks after surgery
- Do not run, lift weights, play tennis, or golf for 3-4 weeks after surgery. (Keep your heart rate under 100 for 3 weeks)
- You may begin swimming 4 weeks post-operatively, if healing is complete.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Moderate swelling of your abdomen is to be expected. You may find that your clothes may not fit as easily as before. Be patient. The swelling will gradually subside and you will be back to normal in 3 to 6 months.
2. Because of the removal of tissue from your abdomen, there is a certain amount of tightness that is to be expected. This will slowly relax within 6 months.
3. If you notice some vaginal burning and itching (vaginitis) as a result of the antibiotic used during and after surgery, our office or your family physician can prescribe Diflucan.
4. Infrequently after surgery, you may have fluid in the abdomen after the drains are removed. If this happens, you will notice a fullness or sloshy feeling in your abdomen. Please contact our office so we can aspirate it easily.
5. It is important to be seen by Dr. Rohrich at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 6 months, and 1 year post-op.
6. Some suggestions to ease abdominal discomfort or indigestion after surgery:
  - Drink a lot of water – 8 glasses a day!
  - Drink warm liquids (tea or coffee)
  - Prune juice mixed with 7-Up (half and half) for mild constipation
  - If severely constipated use Miralax first as it is a mild but effective laxative, Phillips Milk of Magnesia, Colace stool softeners, and fleet enemas (regular or oil retention) as a last resort.
  - Walking helps the circulation in legs and bowels.

**ABDOMINOPLASTY (Tummy Tuck)  
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS (continued)**

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It is important to be seen by Dr. Rohrich after your initial post-op checks. He will see you in follow-up appointments at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 6 months and 1 year post-op. Call to schedule your appointments at UT Southwestern Medical Center office at 214-645-2353 or Dallas Plastic Surgery Institute at 214-821-9114 between the hours of 8:30 – 5:00.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DR. ROHRICH**

If you are a patient at one of the facilities below, please call between the hours of 8:30-5:00. If you need immediate care, please call Dr. Rohrich anytime on his cell. There is no such thing as a minor question. I would rather you call me than wonder and not do the right thing, so please call my office, or email me anytime.

Dr. Rohrich's cell: 214-500-4870

Dr. Rohrich's email: [rod.rohrich@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:rod.rohrich@utsouthwestern.edu)

Dr. Rohrich's website: [www.drrohrich.com](http://www.drrohrich.com)

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