

ROD J. ROHRICH, M.D.
PLASTIC SURGERY

LIPOSUCTION
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

AT HOME AFTER SURGERY:

- After surgery, it is important for you to have someone available to stay with you for the first 24-48 hours, as you will be weak and drowsy. You may require help the first few times you get out of bed.
- It is important to be walking early and frequently, move your legs and ankles when in bed. Keep legs elevated, when in bed, for the first 2-3 days. Please don't cross your legs as this can increase the risk for blood clots.
- Please take deep breaths frequently to keep your lungs clear (15-20 per time).
- A light diet is best after surgery. Begin by taking liquids slowly and progress to soups or jello. You may start a regular diet the **next** day.
- Most people experience muscle soreness as opposed to sharp pains for about 5-7 days after surgery. The pain medication and muscle relaxant we have prescribed should relieve your discomfort. You may take the pain medication every 4-6 hours as needed for the first 2-3 days after the surgery for pain and/or discomfort. You may take the Xanax every 8 hours for the first 24/48 hours for anxiety. It is best to take pain medication with crackers, jello, etc. Do not drink alcohol while taking pain medication.
- It is important to refrain from any strenuous activities for 3 weeks after surgery. Keep your heart rate below 100 beats per minute. Gradually work to pre-surgical activities beginning slowly at the 2nd week.
- The compression garment must be worn AT ALL TIMES for at least 2 WEEKS day and night 24/7. You may remove the garment beginning on the 3rd day before taking your first shower, however be sure someone is with you to help, as occasionally you can feel dizzy or light headed. This is normal. Sit or lay down for about 20 minutes BEFORE you shower.
- You then wear the compression garment at night for the second two weeks. Many patients continue to wear the garment for comfort. You can put the compression garment in the washer and air dry. If you wish, you may purchase a full length Lycra girdle without zippers at a department store to wear for comfort.
- The body retains fluids in response to surgery so do not expect to see any immediate weight loss for the first 2-3 weeks. In the long run you will see more of a change in the way your clothes fit than a decrease in pounds.
- Swelling and bruising are a normal expectation following surgery. Bruising could be apparent for as long as 3-4 months afterwards. The bruises will move down your body as they are absorbed.

LIPOSUCTION AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

- Massage to the surgical sites will help increase circulation and alleviate the hardness felt underneath the skin. Massage can begin 2 weeks after surgery. Request a lymphatic massage therapist.
- It is normal to have an itching sensation and/or numbness following surgery in the areas that underwent liposuction. This will gradually subside over the next 2-3 months.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Avoid strenuous activity and lifting of objects heavier than 10 lbs for 3 weeks (keep heart rate less than 100 beats per minute.)
- All incisions will be extremely sensitive to sunlight during the healing phase. Direct sun contact is to be avoided and use a sunscreen with SPF 20 or greater (with both UVA and UVB protection) for at least 6 months.
- Please take all medication carefully and as directed.
- If you have nausea, vomiting, rash, shortness of breath, or diarrhea after taking your medications please call my office.
- If you develop a fever (oral temperature greater than 101°), redness, or increased pain at the surgical incisions, please call immediately.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Dr. Rohrich recommends lymphatic massage therapy following liposuction surgery beginning 3-4 weeks after the procedure. Prices vary based on treatment location and duration of massage therapy.

Suggested therapy is 2-3 times per week for 3-4 weeks. This allows for enhanced lymph drainage and for enhanced resolution of the swelling associated with liposuction. We also recommend circular massages with Vitamin E oil and external ultrasound heat therapy as needed.

LIPOSUCTION
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

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 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, 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
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