Wound Care After Gallbladder Surgery

Home Care Instructions

Take all medications as directed.

May shower starting tomorrow. No swimming or soaking in tub for 2 weeks.

Leave sticky plastic dressings on for 2 to 3 days then remove and cover as necessary with dry gauze. Replace band aids after shower for 2 to 3 days.

It will be normal to be sore for a couple weeks following surgery. See your surgeon if this seems to be getting worse rather than better.

Take prescribed medication as directed. You may use ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) for discomfort.

Percocet may cause constipation. Take stool softener of choice as directed as needed. Take with food.

You may resume normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.

Avoid lifting until you are instructed otherwise.

Make an appointment to see your surgeon for staple removal one week after procedure.

Seek Medical Attention If:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound not controlled with medication.
- There is drainage, blood or pus coming from the wound lasting longer than one day or sooner if there is concern.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 101.0 develops.
- You develop signs of generalized infection including muscle aches, chills, fever, or a general ill feeling.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- There is a breaking open of a wound (edges not staying together) after the sutures, staples, or steri-strips have been removed.
- You develop dizzy episodes or fainting while standing.
- You develop persistent nausea or vomiting.

Seek Immediate Medical Attention If:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing.
- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.