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Post-Operative Instructions for Turbinate Surgery

Turbinate Surgery is a procedure to reduce the size of the turbinates to improve nasal drainage and breathing. The secrets to a quick recovery are: resting, cleaning the nose, good pain control and communication with the office for any problems or questions.

Pre-operatively

Please avoid all forms of aspirin, alcohol, and herbal products for one week prior to the procedure

What to Expect:

1. Nausea – Nasal procedures are usually very nauseating as the patient will frequently swallow some blood during the procedure. Immediately after the procedure, stick to clear liquids and foods. After a few hours, you may increase the diet as tolerated.
2. Nasal congestion – Cleaning the nose with peroxide on a Q-tip or rinsing the nose with a nasal saline (i.e. – Simply Saline) will help with this. Start saline nasal spray 4xs daily the day after surgery.
3. Nasal drainage (including bloody drainage) – Upon awakening you will have a bandage taped under your nose to act as a drip pad. This may need to be changed every 30 minutes or every few hours. If bloody drainage is increasing you may use Afrin Decongesting Spray (oxymetazoline or neosynephrine) over the counter. This is dosed 3 puffs each nostril 3 times a day for 3 days only. Only use it if bleeding is profuse and do NOT use it for congestion.
4. **Discomfort, headache, dry/sore throat, low grade fever- all are expected and will resolve quickly.**
5. A large fleshy clot may be sneezed out during recovery at any time and is expected.

Post-operative Care

1. Nasal irrigation or nasal washing is recommended after turbinate surgery. This should start the day after surgery. This is a more rigorous washing of the nose than saline nasal spray. It will then be done 2-3 times a day until the healing process is complete. This can be accomplished by purchasing a Water Pick with a nasal adaptor, purchasing a disposable irrigation kit such as Neil Med nasal douche, AYR sinus rinse kit or simply saline or ocean complete in an aerosol can. Dr. Eldredge does not recommend the netti pot, as it often causes fluid to get trapped in the ears.
2. You will need to rest with the head elevated for the first 48-72 hours.
3. Do NOT blow your nose until the first post-operative visit
4. Do sneeze with the mouth open until the first post-operative visit.
5. You may resume very light activity like walking at 1 week, but will not be able to resume full activity for 2-3 weeks.
6. If you are hurting, please take the pain medication that was prescribed. Do NOT drink alcohol or drive when using narcotic pain meds.
7. Finish antibiotics if prescribed and resume home medications only as ordered by your surgeon.
8. If you have any questions at all about the procedure, or your recovery, please call so we can ensure the fastest recovery possible.