



Carotid Endarterectomy

What to expect after hospitalization:

- Be prepared to have a responsible adult drive you home. You may wish to have someone stay with you for the first 24 hours in case you need assistance.
- You may have numbness, bruising and swelling around your incision site and in your ear. This is normal and will decrease over time. You will notice a firm ridge of healing tissue along the incision site. You may notice that your neck feels 'tight' for the first few days. This is normal and will decrease as your bruising and swelling decreases.
- Your incisions will be covered with tape. DO NOT remove it. You may remove the outer dressing two days after surgery. It is ok to shower at that time. You should not submerge yourself in water (bath tub, hot tub) until your doctor has cleared you to do so. Do not remove tape while showering. It will fall off over time, or will be removed at your post-operative appointment.
- Take your pain medication as needed. Do not wait until you pain is severe before taking it. You should notice that you no longer need pain medication after 4 to 7 days. Difficulty with urination may be a side effect of taking pain medication. If you experience this, try urinating in a warm shower to help with urine flow. If you are still unable to urinate, please call our office.
- If you take blood pressure medications, be sure to take your regularly scheduled doses. It is important to keep your blood pressure under control during the healing process. You should also be taking one aspirin daily.
- You may feel tired for a couple of days after surgery. Adjust your physical activity accordingly. Try to avoid bumping the area around your incision as this could delay the healing process. Do not lift anything heavier than 15 pounds until your doctor has cleared you to do so.

Contact our office if:

- If you become disoriented, experience vision loss, weakness and numbness on one side of your body or have trouble speaking.
- If you develop a fever greater than 101 degrees or notice bloody, or discolored drainage from your incision sites.
- If you develop a large red area around your incisions or if your neck swells.