



Mark Robinson, MD
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POST-OPERATIVE CARE OF LUMBAR SPINAL FUSION

Follow-Up Appointment: We would like to see you back in our office in 2-3 weeks after surgery.

Your Follow Up appointment is scheduled with Cole Nielsen, PA-C for:

Lumbar Brace: If you are given a brace, you must wear it at all times when you are out of bed, unless you have been instructed otherwise. This brace acts as a cast/splint for your spine. It will help limit the movement of the bones and allow them to heal. Excessive movement can result in non-fusion of the vertebral bones, which could require additional time in the brace or even additional surgery. Do not discontinue use of the brace unless consulting with our office first. You may remove the brace to sleep and shower.

Activity: We advise to take it easy the first 2 weeks after surgery. Take short, leisurely walks for exercise. Please slowly increase your activity level day to day as you are able. Do not stay in bed or lay down for the entire time. It is important to be up approximately 5 min every hour you are awake. **NO BENDING, LIFTING, TWISTING, OR CARRYING MORE THAN 10LBS FOR THE FIRST 4-6 WEEKS AFTER SURGERY.** Depending on job requirements you may be able to return to work with/in one to two weeks of surgery on a part time basis. Please ask us about your particular situation.

Pain Medicine: You will be given prescription pain medication to take at home. Pain levels can vary. Please try Extra-Strength Tylenol (acetaminophen) first to control pain. If this does not relieve the pain, then use the prescribed medications. This medication may not completely stop all of your pain, but should reduce it so you may sleep at night and perform daily activities. Take medications with food. We recommend you take a stool softener or laxative (ie. Mira-lax) while using opioid pain medications as they can commonly cause constipation. DO NOT EXCEED more than 4000 mg of Tylenol (acetaminophen) per day. Avoid NSAID use for up to 3 months after the surgery as these medications can limit bone healing. **Pain medications cause drowsiness, therefore we advise you do not drive while taking prescription pain medications.**



Wound Care: You may shower two days after surgery. It is okay to get incision wet, wash with mild soap and pat dry. Do not submerge the incision, Do not scrub the incision vigorously. You will have paper tape (steri-strips) or glue (dermabond) over the incision, these will gradually loosen and come off on their own. **All sutures are absorbable and do not need to be removed. Do not cover the incision site with new dressing or apply any ointments/creams to the incision site for at least 4 weeks after surgery.** Some swelling and redness around the incision is expected. You may apply an ice pack for 15-20 minutes several times a day for pain and swelling control. **If you notice increasing redness, tenderness, swelling, purulent (pus) discharge at your incision site, or develop a fever/chills please contact our office immediately.**

Please do not hesitate to call our office with additional questions or concerns regarding your surgery and post-operative care.