BALDWIN PLASTIC SURGERY

2403 Loy Drive Suite 202, Lafayette, IN 47909

765.838.2119

FACELIFT

**Before Surgery**

* Pain medication will be prescribed for use after surgery. It is important that you pick up your medication prior to the day of your surgery. You should not, however, start taking them until after your procedure.
* The pain medication most commonly prescribe is Lortab, Vicodin, and Hydrocodone. If you have had an allergic reaction or trouble with any of these pain medications in the past, please let us know.
* **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK anything for at least 8 hours before surgery. This is very important. Doing so could result in your surgery being cancelled.**

**Day of Surgery**

* Arrive at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Surgical Center at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* You will need to have a responsible adult take you home from the surgery center. You will not be able to drive yourself home. We do not allow you to use public transportation or a taxi service following surgery.
* Please wear loose fitting, front buttoning clothing for ease in re-dressing after surgery.

**After Surgery**

* A bulky head and face dressing will be applied during surgery. This will stay in place until the next day when it will be removed in our office. You will then be given a facial sling that will provide compression and support. It should be worn day and night for the first 2 weeks after your surgery.
* You may shower, bathe, and wash your hair after the bulky head dressing is removed in our office. The incision lines may be washed gently. Soap and water pose no increased infection risk.
* It is important to sleep with your head up as much as possible. This will help decrease the amount of neck and face swelling that will normally occur. Sleeping in a recliner or in bed propped up with a few pillows behind your upper back and head is most ideal for the first postoperative week.
* Pain, swelling, and bruising will peak around 48 hours after your surgery and should begin improving each day thereafter.
* There is no need to use cold compresses on your face or neck after surgery.
* Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment on the incisions twice a day. Don’t put on so much antibiotic ointment that it makes your hair greasy.
* Your activity level should be what feels good. You can do routine activities as tolerated, avoid exercise, lifting, or straining during the first 2 weeks after surgery. It is particularly important to avoid bending over, lowering your head below your shoulders, until your face is well healed.
* Your facial and neck skin will be numb for several months after surgery. As a result, avoid exposing your face to extremes of temperature such as heating pads or ice. You may easily create thermal burns to the skin.
* Some of the skin sutures will be removed 5 to 7 days after surgery. The remaining sutures will be removed 10 days after your surgery. You may use makeup after the sutures are removed
* It is extremely important to avoid any type of nicotine products for the first 4 weeks after surgery. Nicotine reduces the blood flow to the skin and may impair or slow down healing. This includes cigarettes and cigars as well as nicotine gum and patches.
* You may drive when you are reasonably comfortable and are off pain medication. The issue is simply one of safety, both to you and others while operating a car. Usually, this is within 2 weeks, but should be discussed with Dr. Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin and his fully experienced plastic surgery staff are devoted to providing top quality care for their plastic surgery patients. Utilizing safe and proven techniques and technologies, Dr. Baldwin is able to help his patients achieve pleasing results. The safety, comfort and satisfaction of his patients are Dr. Baldwin’s primary concerns and he makes every effort to try to ensure that their experiences are positive ones.

Dr. James D. (Sam) Baldwin

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