



MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL

**HELENA O. TAYLOR, MD, PHD, FACS**  
**STEPHEN R. SULLIVAN, MD, MPH, FACS**

300 Mount Auburn Street, Suite 304  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-492-0620 FAX: 617-492-0631  
www.massplasticsurgeons.com



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

## **BREAST AUGMENTATION (Breast Implant) AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS**

- In the week before your operation:
  - Consider eating pineapple, it may help reduce bruising
  - Consider supplementing with Arnica montana, it may help reduce bruising
  - Complete household chores and prepare meals for the first few days of postoperative recovery
  - Follow preoperative instructions with eating, drinking, and medications
- **Postoperatively, get out of bed and walk (with assistance) every few hours after your operation to decrease the chance of postoperative problems such as blood clots.**
- Practice 15-20 deep breaths every hour to keep your lungs open.
- After surgery, it is important for you to have someone available to stay with you for the first 24-48 hours, as you may feel drowsy. You may require help the first few times you get out of bed.
- Please take your medications as directed by Dr. Taylor or Dr. Sullivan to manage discomfort or symptoms.
  - Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 1000 mg every 8 hours, space doses 4 hours after Ibuprofen so one or the other is taken every 4 hours
  - Ibuprofen (Motrin) 800 mg every 8 hours, space doses 4 hours after Acetaminophen so one or the other is taken every 4 hours
  - Gabapentin 300 mg every 8 hours for 7 days
  - Vitamin C 500 mg daily for 50 days
  - Oxycodone 5 mg – 1-2 tablets every 6 hours as needed for pain, though many patients may not need it
  - Colace 100 mg twice daily to prevent constipation, it is important to have a bowel movement each day
  - Zofran 8 mg every 8 hours if needed for nausea
  - Scopolamine patch will be placed behind the ear on the day of surgery and can stay for 3 days
- Eat a light diet for 2-3 days and avoid spicy food. Some suggestions to ease abdominal discomfort or indigestion after surgery:
  - Drink water or warm liquids
  - Prune juice to prevent constipation

Please contact Dr. Helena O. B. Taylor or Dr. Stephen R. Sullivan for additional information on plastic surgery.

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- You may shower or sponge bath the day after the operation with assistance and wash your skin as you normally would with soap and water. Avoid soaking the incision, although it will not hurt to get a splash of water on the wounds. Gently pat dry after washing.
- You may wear a camisole, postoperative bra provided at the hospital, or no bra after surgery. Dr. Taylor or Dr. Sullivan will advise you when you may wear an underwire bra - usually 6 weeks after surgery.
- Most wounds will be closed with absorbable sutures that are buried, skin glue, and a transparent dressing. The dressing forms a sterile barrier. Please do not remove the dressing, it will fall off on its own after a few weeks. Do not apply any lotions, potions, ointments, creams or solutions (e.g. no hydrogen peroxide or alcohol) as they can be harmful to the fragile healing tissue.
- Do not smoke or expose yourself to smokers or nicotine as skin and wounds can be compromised.
- Infection is uncommon, though please call Dr. Taylor or Dr. Sullivan immediately at any sign of infection which would be signaled by fever, increased pain, new redness or swelling in breast area.

#### **ACTIVITY**

- For the first few days following surgery, avoid raising your blood pressure or heart rate as it can cause bleeding. We recommend gentle range of motion exercises with your arms 3 to 5 times per day starting the day of the operation.
- Please do not drive until turning the steering wheel can be done safely and without pain (usually 5 to 7 days). Do not drive while taking pain medications such as oxycodone.
- Do not perform chest muscle exercises or strenuous bouncing exercises for 6 weeks.
- Breast implant massage should start 5 to 7 days after surgery and be performed 3 to 5 times each day. Dr. Taylor or Dr. Sullivan will show you how to perform these breast exercises, which may help to prevent capsular contractures, promote healing of the chest muscles, and slowly position the breast implants. The scars can be massaged starting 3 weeks after surgery. This may promote early softening and maturation of these areas.

#### **GENERAL OUTCOMES**

- Moderate swelling of your breasts is to be expected, the breast implants may seem too high, and the skin may feel tight. It is normal for implants to “ride high” for 3 to 4 weeks after an operation. The upper portion of your breasts may also look square, which is swelling of the breast and pectoralis muscle. The incision under the breast may also look “stuck down” or sunken compared to the surrounding skin. Please be patient, this is normal and intentional to give you the best long-term outcome from your operation and to decrease the chance that the breast implant will “bottom out” or slide down.

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- The swelling and feeling of tightness will gradually subside over the following 4 to 6 weeks and the implants will settle into position for approximately 12 to 16 weeks. The scar under the breast will also slowly release and look less “stuck down” over the same 12 to 16 week time period. Please wait 12 weeks to buy new bras to ensure proper sizing.
- Sensations like numbness, shooting pain, and burning are common during the healing process, may last several weeks, and gradually disappear. If the nipples are sensitive, it is best to desensitize them with gentle touch.
- Scars take one full year to mature. You may notice that they become red, raised and firm for several weeks to months before becoming soft, flat and pale. Avoid Vitamin E as it can irritate the scar. Mederma has no proven benefit and is not worth the expense. All incisions will be sensitive to sunlight during the healing phase. Direct sun contact or tanning booths are to be avoided. Silicone cream or skin moisturizer with sunscreen and gentle massage may be helpful.
- A small amount bleeding from the incision is expected. Please call our office (617-492-0620) if you have:
  - Continuous bleeding
  - Significantly more swelling on one side when compared to the other
  - Worsening pain
  - Fever, spreading redness or irritation of the skin
  - Shortness of breath

It is important to be seen by Dr. Taylor or Dr. Sullivan after your operation. They will see you in follow-up appointments at 1 week, 2 weeks, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year or as often as needed post-op. Call to schedule your appointments at Taylor & Sullivan Plastic Surgery office at (617) 492-0620 between the hours of 8:30 – 5:00 or visit our webpage at [www.massplasticsurgeons.com](http://www.massplasticsurgeons.com). We are always available for postoperative concerns or emergencies and can be reached through our paging service 24 hours per day at (617) 492-0620.

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