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POST OP CRANIOTOMY PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions are general guidelines and details may vary from patient to patient. If you have any questions not covered in these instructions or in your discussions with me and/or any of my staff, please call my office to discuss further.

Wound Care

Keep your incision clean and dry. Clean the incision daily with regular shower. Use baby shampoo to clean scalp and hair during the shower. Pat incision dry after showering. Leave incision open to air after. Do not apply any ointment to incision.

Drainage of clear or slightly yellow fluid may occur in small amounts. This is not unusual. If drainage increases or if the wound becomes very painful, reddened or drains pus, you should contact the office immediately. After hours and on weekends, when I may not be available, another neurosurgeon is available at all times

Report any temperature over 101 degrees F.

Report any difficulty urinating or constipation problems.

Shower daily, shampoo with baby shampoo.

Medication

Take your pain medication only as ordered. Refrain from combining medications with alcoholic beverages.

Appointment

You should have been given an appointment to return to the office at the time of your discharge from the hospital. Please contact our office upon the first business day after you arrive home if you were not given a return appointment

Avoid

Riding in the car for one week unless absolutely necessary, i.e. riding to a physician's appointment.

Driving until released to do so

Traveling any long distances for at least six weeks.

Pushing, pulling or lifting for at least six weeks.

Housekeeping duties for six weeks. Very light activity is reasonable after two weeks, if tolerated.

Sexual activity for at least one week. Thereafter, gentle activity according to tolerance.

Advised

Walking should be done regularly throughout the day. Gradually increase your distance according to tolerance. You should walk at least every 2 hours throughout the day.

Keep compression stockings on until you are walking around regularly throughout the day.