

INSTRUCTIONS

OPEN CAROTID SURGERY

Be in Admissions at Pennsylvania Hospital, 800 Spruce ST at: _____

The procedure is schedule to start approximately: _____

You must be on time or your procedure may be postponed until later in the day or even cancelled.

The exact timing of cases starting after 8 AM is highly unpredictable

If you have the following problems, you must inform your doctor before the test:

Allergies to dye: If you have a known allergy to dye (contrast), you should let the doctor know. If so, we will give you steroids (Prednisone) before the test to prevent this reaction.

Kidney problems: If you have known kidney problems (renal failure, elevated creatinine), we may give you medication to prevent further problems.

Blood-thinning medications: If you are taking Coumadin or Plavix, you should let the doctor know. We will stop these medications several days before the test to prevent bleeding. *You should continue one aspirin per day up to and including the day of surgery.*

- 1) Day of surgery: nothing by mouth (except medications with sips of water - check with your primary care physician or anesthesiologist).
- 2) Most patients will be able to be discharged the first day after surgery.
- 3) You should call the office 215-829-5000 when you get home for a follow-up appointment to be scheduled approximately one week later. Tell the office you do not need any tests.
- 4) Expect to feel tired for a few days and to have some incisional pain and numbness. This is normal.
- 5) Try to walk at least three times a day.
- 6) Showering or bathing is acceptable after you are home.
- 7) You may have little tapes on your incision called steri-strips. They may be removed once they become loose, or allow them to fall off by themselves. Don't put anything on the incision. It is normal to have some bruising or black and blue marks near the incision or your upper chest.
- 8) Try to slowly move your head side-to-side and up and down a few times a day.
- 9) No driving for one week. It is acceptable to be a passenger.
- 10) Headaches are common and usually respond to tylenol. If you develop unusually severe headaches, contact your surgeon.

Questions call Kelly 215-829-5005