

NEUROSURGICAL ASSOCIATES, L.L.C

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VNS GENERATOR REPLACEMENT SURGERY

Discharge Instructions

Please follow instructions carefully to aid a healthy recovery.

Common Symptoms

- Mild swelling and bruising are common at the surgical sites and will gradually resolve over the next few weeks.
- You may also have some tenderness and pain at the surgical sites. This too will gradually decrease over the next few weeks.

Wound Care

- The incision is closed with dissolvable sutures and **skin glue** which will gradually **peel off** by itself in approximately **7-10 days**.
- Keep incisions dry for 48 hours.
- You may shower 48 hours after surgery. Do not scrub the incision areas. Pat dry.
- Keep incision clean and open to air.
- Limit sun exposure on incision as it has a higher tendency to burn and remain red.
- **DO NOT** soak in bath, swim in pools, or use hot tubs or sauna for 2 weeks.

Medications/Discomfort/Treatment

- For mild to moderate pain, you may take over-the-counter pain medication (i.e. Tylenol or Ibuprofen).
- If you asked to stop blood thinners such as aspirin or Plavix, you may restart these 2 days after surgery.
- Continue to take all of your medications for your epilepsy the same way as you did before the surgery. It can take up to 48 hours to feel back to your normal pre-operative state.
- You may use ice packs to provide relief of swelling and pain at incision site. 20 minutes on/ 20 minutes off.

Activity

- **DO NOT** lift anything greater than 10 pounds for 2 weeks.
- It is important to get daily exercise and walking is a great way to do this.

Programming

If your VNS battery being placed was still functioning at the time of your surgery, your new battery will be turned on and programmed to the same settings before you leave the hospital, unless your doctor has informed you otherwise.

CALL US IMMEDIATELY

- If you see redness beyond the staple edges, swelling, or drainage from your incision or you develop a fever over 101.5.