JOHN WILLIAMS M.D.

Port Care Instructions

Surgery is a stress on the body. You are going through a lot right now, so it is not uncommon for patients to need to take a nap or slow down for a few days.

Incisions- You have 2 incisions. These are closed with stitches underneath the skin that will dissolve. On top of that I placed glue to seal your incision. You do not need to use any antibacterial cream, ointment, or cleanser. The incisions will take care of themselves. The glue typically falls off in a few weeks. A little redness just around the incision is normal as your body is reacting to the sutures. If redness starts to spread accompanied with increasing tenderness several days after surgery, please call the clinic.

Bathing- You may shower the night of surgery. Allow soap and water to run over the incision. Do not soak the incision underwater (bathtub, swimming pool, etc.) for 1 week.

Activity- While I encourage you to "take it easy" for several days to a week, there are no specific activity restrictions. You may use your arm to lift normal everyday objects. You may sleep on that side.

Medications- I do not typically prescribe any medications for the surgery. You do not need oral antibiotics to go home with. I typically do not prescribe narcotic pain medicine. If you feel you need something stronger than Tylenol or Motrin, please let me know.

Port use- The port may be used immediately after surgery. Occasionally, patients will go straight for chemotherapy after port placement. In these situations I will leave the needle and tubing in the port and cover this with a dressing. We refer to this as "leaving it accessed". When you arrive at the cancer center, they will just take off the dressing and start your treatment.

Removal-I can remove your port in the clinic. Once your oncologist has informed you that you no longer need the port, please call the clinic to make an appointment. Outside of being off of blood thinner, there is

no special preparation for this appointment needed. You should be able to drive yourself home.

If you have any questions, please call the clinic at 979-977-3490