

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAPAROSCOPIC OR OPEN
INGUINAL HERNIA REPAIR

- A MILD **DIET** THE DAY OF SURGERY IS RECOMMENDED. ADVANCE YOUR **DIET** AS TOLERATED.
- **CONSTIPATION** IS TO BE **EXPECTED** WHILE ON NARCOTIC PAIN MEDICATIONS. MOST PATIENTS **DO NOT** HAVE THEIR FIRST **BOWEL MOVEMENT** UNTIL **AT LEAST 3 DAYS** AFTER SURGERY. WHILE UTILIZING NARCOTICS, YOU SHOULD REMAIN ON AN OVER THE COUNTER STOOL SOFTENER SUCH AS COLACE OR DOCUSATE. FIBER SUPPLEMENTATION WITH METAMUCIL OR CITRUCEL (1 TABLESPOON WITH 8OZ WATER) IS ALSO **RECOMMENDED**. FOR **SEVERE** CONSTIPATION, MILK OF MAGNESIA (30 ML) OR A FLEETS ENEMA CAN BE HELPFUL. DO **NOT** USE THE ENEMA IF YOU HAVE ANY CHRONIC **KIDNEY** DISEASES SUCH AS RENAL FAILURE.
- **PAIN** IS TO BE **EXPECTED** AFTER LAPAROSCOPIC **OR** OPEN SURGERY. MAKE SURE TO UTILIZE THE PRESCRIBED NARCOTIC PAIN MEDICATIONS AS RECOMMENDED. IF NO SENSITIVITY TO **ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATIONS** OR **ULCER** HISTORY EXISTS, **IBUPROFEN (400-600MG)** EVERY **6-8 HOURS** IS AN EXCELLENT ALTERNATIVE IN **ADDITION TO** **OR** AS A **SUBSTITUTE** TO YOUR NARCOTIC.
- **SWELLING** IS TO BE **EXPECTED** AROUND YOUR **GENITALS**. THIS CAN SOMETIMES BE **ALARMING**. IT WILL **RETURN TO NORMAL** WITHIN **1-2 WEEKS** TYPICALLY.
- FOR ABOUT **1 WEEK** AFTER SURGERY, WEARING **SUPPORTIVE UNDERWEAR** THAT WILL HOLD YOUR GENITALS IN A RELATIVELY FIXED POSITION (FOR EXAMPLE, TIGHTY WHITIES OR BOXER BRIEFS) MAY HELP REDUCE SWELLING AND IMPROVE COMFORT.
- **NAUSEA** IS A COMMON COMPLAINT POST OP. THIS CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH **NARCOTIC** PAIN MEDICATIONS, GENERAL ANESTHESIA, AS WELL AS WITH SEVERE **CONSTIPATION**. TRY TO **MINIMIZE** YOUR NARCOTIC PAIN MEDICATIONS AS SOON AS ABLE. IF PERSISTENT VOMITING, FEVERS OR CHILLS OCCUR, PLEASE CALL THE **OFFICE AT 303.449.3642**.
- YOUR **INCISIONS** ARE CLOSED WITH **DISSOLVABLE** SUTURES AND SKIN ADHESIVE. THE **ADHESIVE** NORMALLY LASTS APPROXIMATELY **1-2 WEEKS**. IF IT FALLS OFF **SOONER**, DO **NOT** BE ALARMED. YOU CAN EXPECT EACH OF THE INCISIONS TO FORM A HARD KNOT BENEATH THE SKIN. **BRUISING** IS ESPECIALLY **COMMON**, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR **GENITAL AREA OR AROUND YOUR NAVEL**. IF YOU NOTICE ANY AREAS OF INCREASING WARMTH OR REDNESS, FEVERS, OR CHILLS, PLEASE CALL THE **OFFICE AT 303.449.3642**.
- **DRIVING** MAY BE **RESUMED** WHEN **OFF** ALL **NARCOTIC** PAIN MEDICATIONS AND YOU CAN **TURN OR TWIST** YOUR BODY **WITHOUT** HESITATION.
- **URINARY RETENTION** IS A **COMMON** PROBLEM AFTER **GROIN** HERNIA SURGERY. IF YOU ARE **UNABLE TO URINATE** WITHIN **8 HOURS** AFTER SURGERY OR IF YOU FEEL **UNCOMFORTABLE** PRIOR, PLEASE CALL THE **OFFICE AT 303.449.3642**.

- YOU MAY **SHOWER** THE DAY **OF** SURGERY. **AVOID SOAKING** YOUR INCISIONS IN A **BATH TUB** OR **HOT TUB** UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN IN FOLLOW-UP.
- **ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS** INCLUDE **NO** LIFTING MORE THAN **30 POUNDS** FOR **ONE WEEK** AFTER SURGERY.
- **SCHEDULE** A POST-OPERATIVE **VISIT 2 WEEKS** AFTER SURGERY. IF ONE HAS NOT BEEN ARRANGED BEFORE SURGERY, PLEASE CALL THE **OFFICE** AT **303.449.3642**.