

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Discomfort:

Mild discomfort after your surgery is not uncommon

For pain relief:

take Panadol, Panadeine, Panadeine Forte, or Endone as prescribed

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (eg Brufen) can also be taken if the discomfort is still troublesome. This will work together with Panadol type drugs.

Call the Hospital if the pain is severe and increasing

Dressings:

You can shower within 12 hours after your surgery

The dressings are waterproof and will resist water from a shower

You should not take a bath or swim until the wounds are dry

Keep the waterproof dressings in place for 1 week

Peel the dressings off just before a shower at 1 week after surgery

There will be a little blood stained fluid under the dressings, just rinse it off in the shower and dab dry with a clean towel

Wounds:

The wounds are closed with buried, dissolving sutures and 'steri-strips'

You do not need to have stitches removed

The paper steri-strips can be peeled off with the dressings or when they start to lift on their own

Wound infection is an uncommon complication of surgery, but might require treatment:

Contact Dr Crawford or your GP if you are worried or:

There is increasing pain, redness, smell or discharge from the wound

Diet:

There are no restrictions on diet just listen to your body to tell you when you are ready for spicy or fatty foods. Alcohol (in moderation) is permitted

Activity:

It is recommended that you have 7-14 days off work and no heavy lifting (more than a chair) for 4 weeks

You should avoid rigorous, competitive sport for 4-6 weeks

You can drive as soon as you can safely control the vehicle (usually a few days after surgery)

Medications:

Take routine medications from the day after surgery

Follow Up:

If you have not already booked a follow up appointment, please phone the rooms and book an appointment for 3-4 weeks time

Contact Numbers

Dr Crawford (Newtown and Mater Rooms) **02 9565 4854**

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital 02 9515 6111

The Mater Hospital 02 9900 7300