

# PERK

PLASTIC SURGERY  
BEVERLY HILLS

—  
**POST-OP | Lip Lift**

(310)400-6180

[concierge@perkplasticsurgery.com](mailto:concierge@perkplasticsurgery.com)

## **“What will I see when I look into a mirror? What will I feel like?”**

Any visible sutures used are removed in 5 to 10 days. If any portion of the incision is internal (along the gum line), then the sutures placed will dissolve on their own.

You will have bruising and swelling. The swelling usually peaks at 48 hours and will gradually decrease over the next 7-10 days.

The area around your mouth will feel tight but not necessarily look tight. This is normal and will disappear over time as the swelling and numbness resolves.

There may be a feeling of numbness of the chin and jawline that will subside.

The upper lip sometimes will feel numb and occasionally the front teeth will feel “funny” due to the areas of numbness. These feelings will gradually disappear.

All incisions and the skin of your face will be extremely sensitive to sunlight during the healing phase. Protect your facial skin from excessive exposure to the sun for 8 weeks. Direct sun contact or tanning booths are to be avoided. Wearing a wide brim hat is highly recommended.

## **“When can I shower or bathe?”**

You can shower 24 hours after surgery. Don't let the water hit your face. Wash your face with a damp washcloth and wipe gently around the lips for 7 days. **DO NOT RUB** the incision.

## **“What can I do after surgery?”**

Apply towel wrapped ice bags or cooling packs (keep them cold, but not frozen) to the exposed areas of your face for the first 72 hours to reduce post-operative swelling.

The more you can take it easy and ice the area, the less swelling there will be.

After the first 48 hours, you may start cleaning along any external incision line under the nose with a mild soap and use a moisturizer on your face, being careful to keep it away from the stitches.

*Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment to these areas after cleaning twice daily.*

Sleep on your back with your head elevated on approximately 2 pillows.

Do not wear clothing that pulls over the head.

Avoid bending over for long periods of time.

You should “take it easy” the day of surgery and gradually increase your activity as you feel more comfortable. Avoid heavy exercise also during this time and only gradually return to your normal routine. No strenuous activity or heavy lifting for 4 weeks. You can resume all of your normal activities about four weeks after surgery.

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## “When can I drive?”

You should never drive if you are still taking any pain medication other than Tylenol.

## “When will I be able to return to work?”

Depending on the type of work you do, you should be able to return to your job as soon as you are comfortable.

## “How much pain will I have?”

The most discomfort that you will have lasts 5-7 days, sometimes a little longer. As you feel more comfortable, your need for medication will be less.

## “What should I eat after surgery?”

A light diet is best for the day of surgery. Begin by taking liquids slowly and progress to soups or jello.

Avoid salty foods. Avoid spicy foods.

Avoid eating any hard/firm foods (ex: apples, carrots) or taking exaggerated (large) bites of food for the first two weeks. Chew all food slowly and thoroughly.

Do not use straws.

## “What medications should I use?”

*Pain medication:* I will prescribe a pain medication for you. Follow the directions on the bottle for their use. The pain medication will make you feel drowsy. Have someone assist you in your home and do not attempt to drive while you are taking the pain medication.

- A few days after surgery most women will find that Tylenol will take care of the discomfort.
  - Do not use aspirin for five days after the surgery.
  - It is best to take pain medication with crackers, jello, etc.
  - If you have no pain, do not take the medication.
  - Alcohol and pain medication should not be taken together.

*Antibiotic:* You will be given an antibiotic. Please follow the instructions from your pharmacist or that are written on the packaging.

*Stool softener:* Narcotic pain medications can sometimes cause constipation. An over-the-counter stool softener (Colace) is recommended if you are prone to this.

- Prune juice mixed with 7-Up (half and half) for mild constipation
- If severely constipated use Miralax first as it is a mild but effective laxative, Phillips Milk of Magnesia, and fleet enemas (regular or oil retention) as a last resort.

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*Anti-nausea medication:* Some nausea is normal in the first 24-48 hours following surgery. If you are nauseated, please take the anti-nausea medication.

You may have additional medications.

## “Can I drink alcohol?”

Do not drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication after your surgery.

## “When will I be seen in the office after surgery?”

You will normally be seen in the office within one week of your surgery.

## “Should I apply anything to the incisions to help make it scar better?”

We will give you instructions on how to improve the scar appearance.

## “How will I know if I am having a problem?”

I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY:

These are the complications that will require a change in your post-operative care!

**Hematoma** (blood collecting under your incisions) can occur within a few days of surgery. The warning signs are:

- Significant swelling
- Excessive or growing bruising

**Infection** is rare. It is normal to have a very small amount of drainage from your incisions for one to 2 days. Signs of infection are:

- Increased temperature
- Increasing drainage from the incisions
- Increasing redness around the incisions

**Leg swelling** with or without associated pain may indicate a problem with the vein circulation in your leg(s). Although some swelling is to be expected due to your surgery, intravenous fluids given to you during the surgery and your decreased level of activity, this swelling is normally mild, painless and affects both legs evenly. If you have a large amount of leg swelling (either one or both legs) or if you experience pain in your legs contact the office immediately.

**Breathing problems** after surgery are rare but can be a serious complication. If you develop any chest and/or back pain or the feeling of being short of breath you must contact my office or be seen in the nearest emergency medical facility without delay.

**Medication reactions** may occur with the drugs prescribed for you. If you develop a skin rash, itching, vomiting, or diarrhea, stop taking your medication and contact my office.