



J. Michael Desaloms, M.D.

Post-Operative Instructions for Patients after DBS Surgery

Post-Operative Pain

DBS surgery is followed by a mild amount of pain and swelling at the surgical sites. You will be given an oral pain medication upon discharge from the hospital to use, if needed. Taper off this and switch to over the counter medication as soon as possible. This medication can cause confusion, constipation, nausea or a rash. If any of these symptoms occur, stop taking the medication. Call our office for another prescription if needed.

Wound Care

DBS surgery is followed by a mild amount of pain and swelling at the surgical sites. You will be given an oral pain medication upon discharge from the hospital to use, if needed. Taper off this and switch to over the counter medication as soon as possible. This medication can cause confusion, constipation, nausea or a rash. If any of these symptoms occur, stop taking the medication. Call our office for another prescription if needed.

Activity & Diet

Do not lift objects that weigh more than 15lbs for the first 2 weeks after surgery. The amount of activity you may perform after the first 2 weeks is largely individual and difficult to generalize. Let your comfort level and common sense be your guide. You can increase your diet as tolerated. Avoid swimming or hot tubs for 2 months after surgery to limit infection risk.

Constipation

If you are having trouble with constipation due to pain medicine and inactivity, Senakot, Dulcolax and fleets enemas can be purchased over-the-counter at your local drug store. Consult your pharmacist.

Driving

Do not drive for 4 weeks following surgery. If you were driving before surgery, you may return driving after a family member checks your driving skills.

Microlesion Effect

Sometimes there is a “honeymoon” period following electrode implantation but before the battery is activated – during this period, some of your symptoms may be much better even though the DBS has not been connected or turned on yet. This will fade away and you can expect to return back to your previous level of functioning.

Medications

Continue to take all of your movement disorder medications the same way as you did before surgery, unless otherwise instructed.

If you are asked to stop blood thinners such as aspirin or Plavix, you may restart these 2 days after the battery placement surgery.

Continue the medications prescribed by your neurologist for your movement disorder. The DBS generator is left off following surgery and will be programmed by the neurologist in the postoperative period.

J. Michael Desaloms, M.D. CranPost-Operative Instructions for Patients after DBS Surgery

Follow-up appointments

Neurosurgeon (Dr. Desaloms and David Sheridan, NP) will see you 10-14 days after your operation to check wound healing, remove staples, and arrange any further post-operative care visits that might be necessary. Make a list of questions to be answered during the visit.

Your DBS will be activated by Neurology approximately 3-4 weeks after your leads are placed.

Hair Care

NO hair coloring or perm solutions can be used until 6 weeks after surgery.
NO haircuts with clippers for 6 weeks following surgery.

Flights

Wait 2 weeks from the last surgery.

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

LaTonya, MA 214-445-6960 Direct or 214-750-3646 Main