

# Mulholland

BRAIN



SPINE

## Post Craniotomy Instructions

These instructions are provided as a guide to help you in recovery. Please follow these and any additional instructions provided to you by Dr. Mulholland or Kylie Smith, PA-C.

### Restrictions for the first 2 weeks or until follow-up:

- Avoid keeping your head flat. Prop it up with extra pillows.
- Do not drive yourself until Dr. Mulholland gives you permission.
- Avoid all heavy lifting.

### What you should do:

- You should have a family member, a friend, or a caretaker stay with you for a few days following discharge from the hospital.
- Make a follow-up appointment with Dr. Mulholland as instructed prior to discharge. This is usually 2 weeks after surgery.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Take prescribed medications as directed by Dr. Mulholland. Finish your course of steroids, if prescribed, unless otherwise instructed. Dr. Mulholland does not routinely give seizure medication unless there is a history of seizures and/or documentation of a seizure during your hospital stay.

### What you should not do:

- Do not drive or consume alcoholic beverages while taking pain medication.



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## Post Craniotomy Instructions cont...

### Incision care:

- You may shower 24 hours after surgery.
- It is ok to let soap and water fall on the incision but do not scrub the incision.
- Pat dry after showering. Do not submerge the incision or soak the incision.
- Do not use creams or ointments on or around the incision area.
- Keep incision dry. The incision does not need to be covered with a bandage.

### When to call your physician:

- If you experience redness, swelling or drainage around the incision.
- If you experience pain and/or swelling in the lower extremities or calf area.
- If you have a fever of greater than 100.4 or chills that persists for more than 24 hours.
- If you experience new problems such as weakness, vision changes, speech or swallowing difficulties.
- If you experience seizures.

**If you have any questions or concerns prior to your follow-up appointment, please call the office and speak with either Heather or Kylie Smith, PA-C.**

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