



WRH PHYSICIANS, INC.

**Western Reserve Hospital Physicians
Neurosurgery**

Paul Hartzfeld, MD
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Suite 300
Akron, OH 44320

P: (330) 926-3322
F: (330) 926-3342

Office Hours:
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

wrhpi.org

Craniotomy/Craniectomy Instructions After Surgery

- If you have any questions or problems, please contact our office at (330) 926-3322
- We are available 24 hours/day if you feel it is an emergency. Otherwise please call during regular business hours (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- Absolutely no prescriptions outside of regular business hours

Activity

No strenuous activity. Walking is the best exercise after surgery. Walk several times daily (if able) and increase your distance. Do not walk if you think you might fall. Use walker or cane until you are confident that you will not fall.

Driving

No driving until cleared by physician.

Bathing and Incision Care

Shower daily, letting soapy water run across incision. Avoid scrubbing incision site. Avoid baths, hot tubs, and swimming until after your post op appointment. Do not apply any ointments, powders, lotions or creams to incision. It is okay to wash hair. Do not dye or perm your hair for 4 weeks.

When to Call the Office

Fever, chills, profuse sweating, drainage from incision, new or worsening pain, new or worsening weakness, severe headaches, vision changes, persistent nausea and vomiting. If it is a medical emergency please call 911.

Pain Medication and Constipation

You will be given a prescription for pain medication at discharge from the hospital. If you need a refill you may call our office at (330) 926-3322. Narcotic pain medications cause constipation. Take a stool softener (Colace) daily. Any over-the-counter laxative may also be used if needed (Miralax, Ex-Lax, Milk of Magnesia).

NO Smoking or Nicotine products

Smoking and any nicotine decreases healing time and can increase your pain. Please note: Most electronic cigarettes contain nicotine. Do not use nicotine gum or patches. If you need assistance with quitting, contact your Primary Care Provider.

Follow up Appointment

See the date and time on your Pre-Surgery Information sheet (10-14 days after your surgery). Please keep this appointment. You will need an incision check.