



Colorado *Facial* Plastic Surgery

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Creating Beautiful Faces

FOREHEAD LIFT & BLEPHAROPLASTY

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY

Swelling and Bruising

Everybody will experience some swelling and bruising. The degree varies from slight to severe depending on the extent of the surgery and the individual's unique tissue response to the surgery. The swelling and bruising peaks 2 to 3 days following surgery, and then starts to subside. By 14 days, the majority of the swelling has resolved. Specific measures are used to minimize the swelling and bruising: steroids, cold compresses, head elevation, homeopathic medicine (arnica). On occasion, the whites of the eyes may become discolored by blood tracking into this location. Although this can be dramatic in appearance, it is not of great significance and gradually improves over 1 to 2 weeks. The majority of patients are able to go out in public by 7-10 days following surgery. Cover-up makeup can usually be applied 7-10 days following surgery to camouflage any remaining bruising.

Discomfort and Pain

Pain typically ranges from mild to moderate. As with swelling, pain will peak on the 3rd day after surgery and is well-controlled with narcotic analgesics. Severe pain is uncommon after brow and eyelid surgery. If severe pain develops and is not controlled with narcotic analgesics, please report this to us.

Bleeding

As with any surgical procedure, bleeding can occur. This will be obvious if it oozes out the incision. However, if the blood becomes trapped under the skin, it will show as a rapid increase in swelling. In the eye socket, entrapped bleeding is known as an orbital hematoma and can lead to blindness if left untreated. The signs of an orbital hematoma following eyelid surgery include increased swelling, eye bulging and severe pain. An expanding orbital hematoma is a medical emergency; therefore, if such symptoms develop the patient should contact us immediately at 303-839-7980.

Infection

Following forehead and eyelid surgery, infection is extremely uncommon. However, if it occurs, it can seriously jeopardize the final result of surgery. In order to keep the risk of infection as low as possible, we will administer antibiotics during and after the surgery. The signs of infection, should it occur, include increasing redness, pain, tenderness, swelling, and eventually fever. If these symptoms develop, they should be reported to us immediately.

Nausea

Some patients experience nausea related either to the anesthetic medications or the narcotic analgesics. Medicine used to help alleviate nausea will be prescribed and should be taken as needed. It also helps to eat light meals for the first few days following surgery.

Numbness

Partial loss of sensation over the forehead is not uncommon after forehead surgery. This is usually transient and can persist for 1 to 3 months after surgery. Rarely, there will be a small degree of numbness that may last permanently.