SURGEONS CHOICE
MEDICAL CENTER

POST OPERATIVE BLEEDING: Care Notes

"What is post-operative bleeding?"

Post-operative bleeding is bleeding after surgery. If you start to bleed or notice blood on your surgical dressing, do not panic! Slight oozing or spotting of blood on the dressing is normal. However, if the bleeding continues then apply firm, constant pressure to the area for 20 minutes. Usually, this will stop most bleeding.

"What should I do if I cannot stop the bleeding?"

Please continue to apply pressure and contact your surgeon or family doctor for advice.

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room if:

- **Blood keeps soaking through the bandage covering your incision.**
- **Your heart is beating faster than normal for you.**
- **You are having a hard time breathing.**
- **You are urinating less than usual, or not at all.**
- **Your skin feels cool and clammy.**
- **You are anxious or feeling confused.**

"What increases my risk of post-operative bleeding?"

- Vitamin or herbal supplements that affect blood clotting, such as vitamin E, ginkgo, ginseng, turmeric, ginger or feverfew.
- Medicines such as aspirin that thin your blood and prevent blood clots.
- Health conditions, such as liver or kidney disease, or a bleeding disorder, such as hemophilia.

"What should I do if I take medication such as Aspirin, Xarelto, Warfarin or Clopidogrel, which are blood thinners?"

You are at a slightly higher risk of bleeding but do not stop taking your medication unless advised to do so by your doctor.

"What is the treatment for prolonged post- operative bleeding?"

A blood transfusion may be done to give you donated blood through an IV.

- Blood components may be given during a transfusion to help stop your bleeding. Blood components are the parts of blood that help it to clot. Examples are clotting factors, platelets, and plasma.
- A special medicine call an Anti-fibrinolytic may be given to slow or stop your bleeding.
- Surgery may be done to fix the blood vessel or area that is bleeding.