

**SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, PC**  
**GENERAL, THORACIC AND LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY**  
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**AFTER CARE**  
**GALLBLADDER SURGERY**

- I. Leave outer dressing in place for 48 hours, leave steri-strips for 7-10 days or until they start to pull off
- II. Showers can be taken after 48 hours, (NO BATH, POOL OR HOT TUB), simply wash with water and pat dry. There is no reason to wash with any cleansing solution.

III. **COMMON FINDINGS INCLUDE:**

Minor swelling, bruising, and redness around incision.

It is common to feel pain under your collar bone or in your shoulders caused by the gas during surgery.

IV. **CALL YOUR SURGEON FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- (1) Increasing redness or streaking around incision
- (2) Pus or foul drainage from incision
- (3) Increasing or excessive pain in incision
- (4) Sustained fever >100 degrees
- (5) Persistent nausea or vomiting
- (6) Persistent or increasing right upper abdominal pain

V. **COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF PAIN MEDICATIONS INCLUDE:**

- (1) Nausea - Be sure to take medication with some food or drinks.
- (2) Constipation – Take over the counter Milk of Magnesia if you haven't had a bowel movement for a day or two or you begin to feel constipated. Make sure and drink plenty of water.
- (3) Light-headedness
- (4) Do not drive while taking narcotic pain medication

If these symptoms occur after taking medications, discontinue use.  
May take over the counter pain medications or laxative of choice.

**NOTE:** Routine calls and prescription refills are best handled during office hours 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. For urgent problems after hours, the surgeon on call can be reached at (406) 238-6470.