

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

CESSATION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND NICOTINE PRIOR TO SURGICAL PROCEDURES

WARNING: Cigarette smoking causes cardiovascular disease and may also impede the healing process of surgical procedures.

Prior to any surgical procedure it is of critical importance for patients to understand the potential risks of tobacco products and nicotine on the wound healing process. The importance of cessation of tobacco products and nicotine use several weeks prior to and following surgery cannot be overstated.

Nicotine is a chemical released into the body when tobacco products are used. Nicotine has a very damaging effect on many of our organ systems and their function. The nicotine contained in the tobacco causes constriction of the body's blood vessels which supply nourishment to the skin and underlying tissue. Any restriction of this blood flow will jeopardize the healing process and lead to a less favorable outcome from the procedure.

It is estimated that over 400,000 individuals die prematurely each year in the United States from cigarette use: this represents approximately one out of every five deaths in our country. Cigarette smoking causes cardiovascular disease.

The surgeon in the operative team cannot control every facet of wound healing even in normal situations. The use of tobacco products and nicotine can have a significant negative impact on the outcome of any surgical procedure. The unsatisfactory healing of wounds and loss of tissue in the surgical area, directly related to the continued use of tobacco products and nicotine are readily identifiable.

To achieve the optimum results following surgery we strongly recommend that you cease the use of tobacco products and nicotine several weeks prior to your scheduled surgical procedure.

It is important that you read and understand this information. If you have any questions regarding these facts we will gladly discuss them with you.

I have read and understand the potential risks I may encounter if I continue to use tobacco products or nicotine for several weeks prior to and following a surgical procedure.