

Things to know before surgery

1. Scheduling:

- When you see the doctor and he recommends you have surgery, he will give you his surgical scheduler's business card and instruct you to call her.
- When you call, you may have to leave a message if the scheduler is on the other line with another patient. Leave the phone number of the best place to reach you between 9 am and 5 pm. Be assured, she will return your call as soon as possible. When you talk to the scheduler, try to have your calendar handy so you can coordinate a time for surgery as well as pre- and post-op appointments.
- Our doctors do surgery 2-3 times a week. The other days they are in the office seeing patients.
- Once you have scheduled surgery, the scheduler will send you some information in the mail. This will document your surgery appointment as well as your pre- and post-op appointments.
- There are post-operative instructions on our web site for the most common types of surgery. It is a good idea to review this information to know what to expect so you can plan accordingly.

2. Surgery Time:

- Surgery is usually scheduled in the morning although some of our doctors do have afternoon surgery time.
- **Surgical times are not assigned until the day before surgery.** The surgical cases are done in age order from youngest to oldest. This is because patients cannot have anything to eat or drink for 8 hours before surgery. Some of our patients are infants; therefore, they are the first to undergo surgery. Most people understand that a hungry baby is not a happy baby!
- Once the surgical times are decided you will receive a phone call from our office, or the surgical center. You will be instructed on what time to arrive. You typically arrive 45 minutes to an hour before surgery.
- If for some reason you do not receive a call about your surgery time, call the number that is on the letter you received or our office. The number will vary based on where your surgery is scheduled.

3. Pediatric Patients

- Pediatric patients are required to see their pediatrician the day before surgery. At that visit, the pediatrician will listen to the child's heart and lungs, and make sure that he/she is healthy to undergo surgery.
- The pediatrician will fill out a form called a History and Physical (H&P). The surgical scheduler will have mailed this form to you along with your surgery information. **You need to bring this form with you on the day of surgery.**

4. The Day of Surgery

- The day of surgery you will report to the facility as scheduled.
- Patients must have someone bring them in and stay with them until they are out of surgery. The Virginia Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery Center at the Virginia Eye Institute, as well as some of the hospital waiting rooms, can become crowded, so we ask that you have **no more than 2 people waiting for the patient while in surgery.**
- Patients should wear comfortable clothes and no jewelry.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to surgery call the surgery scheduler or our office.

Office Phone: 804-484-3700