

Patient Information and Daily Programme for Patients Having Liver Surgery: Laparoscopic Hemi-Hepatectomy

Date of admission	
Date of surgery	
Expected Length of Stay in hospital	We will aim for you to go home within 4-5 days following your operation

Please bring this diary with you when you come in to hospital.

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Derriford Road
Crownhill
Plymouth
PL6 8DH

Tel: 0845 155 8155
www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk



About your Programme/ Diary

This leaflet is for patients having a laparoscopic hemihepatectomy. This operation is performed for malignant (cancerous) or benign (non cancerous) disease.

This diary has been designed to help prepare and support you and your family/carers during your stay in hospital.

It outlines what should happen on each day. Sometimes there will be a specific reason why something isn't done but the team should explain this to you. If you have any concerns about what has or has not happened on any day, please let a member of the team know.

The diary advises on what you can do each day to help your recovery after surgery and get you home as soon as it is clinically safe. It is a good idea to start planning for when you go home **before** you come into hospital, so that your discharge is not unnecessarily delayed.

Day of Operation (Day 0)

Before coming to hospital

On the morning of surgery, try to drink as much of the Nutricia preOp drink as you can. **Finish** the drinks by

06:30 am if you are coming into hospital at 07:00 am
or

11:00 am if you are coming into hospital at 11:00 am

Coming into Hospital

Please go to the Admission Ward as advised on your admission letter. You will be checked in by a nurse and seen by members of the surgical and anaesthetic team before you are taken to theatre for your operation.

After your operation

After your operation you will be taken to the surgical ward.

Drips, Drains and Tubes

After your operation you will have several drips, drains and tubes in place:

An intravenous (IV) drip is used to give you fluids until you are able to drink normally.

An abdominal drain is a tube inserted near your abdominal (tummy) wound to help drain off fluid and prevent swelling.

A urinary catheter is a tube (catheter) put into the bladder to drain your urine into a collecting bag

Reducing the risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (blood clots) – DVT Prophylaxis

You will wear TED stockings which help to maintain circulation in the leg and reduce the risk of blood clots forming (DVT – deep vein thrombosis). You will wear them

for the whole of your hospital stay. You will also be given a daily injection of a blood thinning medicine (Clexane) which you will need to carry on using for 28 days once discharged from hospital.

Pain Control

It is important that your pain is well controlled so that you can

- walk about
- breathe deeply
- eat, drink and sleep well
- recover more quickly

If at any time you feel your pain is not well controlled, it is important that you tell the nursing team.

On the first few days after the operation, you will have your pain controlled by patient controlled analgesia (PCA) or an epidural. You will also be given regular paracetamol through a drip. Once the PCA is stopped, your pain will be controlled by medicine in liquid or tablet form.

Sickness

If you feel sick (nausea) let the doctors or nurses know as there are medicines which can help.

Exercise

Moving around as soon as possible after your operation will reduce your risk of developing a chest infection and blood clots and will help you recover from your operation more quickly.

- In bed keep the backrest raised at a slight angle
- Every hour you are awake do some gentle breathing and leg exercises as follows:
 - Cough 2 to 3 times

- Take 2 to 3 slow deep breaths to help keep your lungs clear
- Flex your ankles by pointing your toes up towards the ceiling and then down towards the floor, then circle your feet in one direction and then the other
- The nurses will assist you to get out of bed and sit in a chair. Try to sit out in the chair for short periods in the morning and afternoon. Each day you should aim to spend longer periods of time in a chair than the previous day
- The nurses will assist you to gradually start walking. Build up the distance and time spent walking each day
- As well as building up your level of activity every day, you also need to have proper rest periods

Eating and Drinking

It is important to eat and drink as your body needs fuel to repair. You can start eating and drinking as soon as you feel able after your operation.

Initially you might find it easier to eat little and often.

You may find that your sense of taste is altered and your appetite is less than normal after your operation. It can take several weeks for taste to return to normal.

Personal Care

The nursing team will help you to wash yourself until you can manage on your own.

Try to wear your day clothes in hospital as this can help you stay more active and be positive about your recovery.

Review

- A member of the surgical team will see you at least once a day
- If you or your family/carers need additional support or would like to talk to your Liver Cancer Nurse Specialist or the surgeons please speak to a member of staff
- If your family / carers would like to talk to the surgeons, please let the nurses know.

Daily Care

- The next page outlines the routine for each day and includes things that you should do to improve your post-surgery recovery.
- Sometimes there will be a specific reason why something isn't done but the team should explain this to you.

See page 4 for an explanation of drips and drains	Day of operation Day 0	First day after operation Day 1
Monitoring (blood pressure, temperature, pulse, breathing)	Hourly checks (or more if necessary) Heart monitor attached Oxygen given through a mask	2-4 hourly checks (min) Heart monitor removed
Pain Control	PCA in place IV Paracetamol through a drip	Pain control continues as before plus tablets or medicine
DVT Prophylaxis	TED stockings Clexane injection	TED stockings Clexane injection
Abdominal Drain	In place, review day 2	
Urinary Catheter	In place, review day 1	REMOVED , if appropriate
Central Line	In place, review day 1	REMOVED , if appropriate
IV Fluids	In place, review day 1	STOPPED , if appropriate
Exercise	In bed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keep the head of the bed slightly raised - do your leg exercises - do your deep breathing exercises You'll be assisted to sit out in a chair for a short time (<i>dependent on time get to ward</i>)	You'll be assisted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sit out in the chair for a brief time in the morning and afternoon - walk a short distance 2 – 4 times a day - Continue your leg and breathing exercises hourly
Eating and Drinking	You can start drinking and eating as soon as you feel able	Try to eat and drink normally. You might prefer to eat little and often.
Wound Care		Surgical wounds checked and dressings changed if necessary
Personal Care		You'll be assisted to wash yourself
Investigations	Blood tests	Blood tests

	Second Day after operation Day 2	Third – Fifth Day after operation Day 3-5
Monitoring (blood pressure, temperature, pulse, breathing)	4-6 hourly checks (min)	6 hourly checks
Pain Control	PCA REMOVED Tablets/Medicine continue	Continue pain control tablets or medicine
DVT Prophylaxis	TED stockings Clexane injection	TED stockings Clexane injection
Abdominal Drain	REMOVED , if appropriate	
Urinary Catheter		
Central Line		
IV Fluids		
Exercise	Sit out in a chair in the morning and afternoon for a little longer than yesterday You should be able to walk without assistance. Try to walk further than yesterday Continue your leg and breathing exercises	Sit out in a chair in the morning and afternoon for a little longer than yesterday Try to walk more often and further than yesterday Continue your leg and breathing exercises
Eating and Drinking	You can eat and drink normally	You can eat and drink normally
Wound Care	If your wound is dry the dressing will be removed	
Personal Care	Dress in your day clothes	Dress in your day clothes
Investigations	Blood tests	

Third to Fifth Day after Operation (Days 3-5)

You will be discharged when

- Your blood pressure, temperature, pulse and breathing are all stable
- Your test results are appropriate
- Your wounds are healing well
- Your pain is well managed
- You are able to walk
- You have someone to support you at home
- None of the team have concerns about your fitness

When you go home

Check with the team to see if you need to be seen by your practice or district nurse.

If you had this operation to treat cancer, the cancer nurse specialist will ring you, normally within 7 days of discharge, to check on your recovery.

Surgical Follow Up Appointment

Once discharged, you will receive an outpatient appointment. This appointment will normally be 4-6 weeks after discharge. If you don't receive an appointment please ring consultant secretary on 01752 432070 or 01752 432071

If you have any concerns or problems, please ring:

Stonehouse Ward	01752 431488
Claire Downing, Cancer Nurse Specialist	01752 517905
Derriford Hospital Switchboard:	0845 155 8155

Notes:

**This leaflet is available in large print and
other formats and languages.
Contact: Patient Services
Tel: 01752 437035**

Date issued: April 2013
For review: April 2015
Ref: A-212/surgery/FH/laparoscopic hemi-hepatectomy