



My BREAST CANCER *Doc*

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Nipple Reconstruction Post-Operative Instructions

You may have had this surgery at the time of your mastectomy, lumpectomy or sometime after your cancer surgery was completed.

If you had free nipple grafts, or transplantation of your nipples as skin grafts, you will have yellow sponge dressings on your nipples that should stay in place until your first post-operative visit. Dr. Schwartz will take off your dressings at this time and examine the result. You will then diligently cover your nipple grafts in bacitracin ointment at least 3 times daily for two weeks. You will make sure that you aim any shower water away from your chest as the nipple grafts are fragile and could be lost.

If you had a completely reconstructed nipple from the local skin (your nipple was removed secondary to cancer or they were removed in a prior surgery), you will also have a similar yellow sponge dressing in place that Dr. Schwartz will remove on your first post-operative visit. You will then cover these reconstructed nipples in bacitracin ointment 1-2 times daily and protect the nipple from compression (no tight-fitting dressings or bras and lots of gauze for padding). You should also direct any shower water away from your reconstructed nipples.