



HALTON UROLOGY

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Discharge Instructions for a GreenLight Laser Prostatectomy

You had a procedure called a GreenLight Laser Prostatectomy or GreenLight Laser PVP (Photo Vaporization of the Prostate). During this surgical procedure, part of your prostate gland was removed (vaporized) to relieve urinary problems due to prostate enlargement. Here are some instructions to help you care for yourself once at home. For the best results from your laser prostatectomy, follow the discharge instructions and keep your follow-up appointments.

Activity: Take it easy for 1-2 weeks. Do not engage in activities requiring heavy lifting (greater than 10-20 lbs.), gardening, bicycling etc. This will increase the pressure your abdomen puts on your bladder and may result in more blood in your urine. Sexual activity should be avoided for 2-3 weeks.

Blood in the Urine (Hematuria): You may experience blood intermittently in the urine with or without small clots. This is to be expected. Bleeding to the point where large blood clots are formed or the urine has the consistency of Ketchup, is excessive. Should this happen, please go to your nearest Emergency Department immediately.

Bowel Movements: It is important to keep your bowels regular during the postoperative period. Straining with bowel movements can cause bleeding. A bowel movement every other day is reasonable. You may require a stool softener (over the counter) to promote regular bowel movements.

Catheter Care: You may need to wear a catheter to drain your bladder after the procedure depending upon how much swelling I am anticipating to occur immediately following the GreenLight Laser procedure. This catheter is generally removed within 24 hours. I will arrange a home care nurse to come to your house to remove this catheter for you. Until then, a leg bag is worn under clothes to hold fluid drained by the catheter. You may be prescribed antibiotics to prevent infection and pain medication to ease any discomfort.

It is important that you use plain soap and water to wash the head of your penis daily (or more often if needed). You will also need to wash the catheter daily with plain soap and water to avoid infection. Avoid using any other chemicals to wash your penis or the catheter.

While in place, catheters can cause some urinary/pelvic symptoms. They can bump up against the bladder, and make a person feel like their bladder is full, despite their bladder being empty. They can also cause a cramping pain in the lower abdomen. These are called bladder spasms. The key to bladder catheters is to insure the catheter is draining the urine well from the bladder. Should there be no urine output over 30-60 minutes, and you feel full, you should go to your nearest Emergency Department as your catheter may have become blocked or plugged. Generally speaking, as long as the catheter is draining, it is working correctly. Occasionally, a catheter can be draining correctly, and the patient has a bladder spasm and squirts a little bit of urine around the catheter. This is okay, as long as it is only a small amount of urine, and the catheter is draining well.

Diet: Resume your regular diet as tolerated.

Driving: Driving should be avoided for at least 1 week after surgery or until you are not taking pain medications or are pain free. Take breaks every couple hours if you are on extended trips. Get out of your car and walk around a bit.

Healing: For the first few weeks after your surgery, you may notice that your urine is cloudy or that you have blood or blood clots in your urine. The prostatic urethra generally takes up to 6 to 7 weeks to heal. Initially a scab will form in the prostatic urethra and then slowly be replaced by normal urethral tissue (a process called re-epithelization). During this healing process, on occasion you may notice tissue "flakes" or scab pieces in your urine followed by small amounts of blood in your urine. This is normal while your body rids itself of the treated tissue. Your symptoms may begin to improve during the first few weeks, but it may take up to three months before they go away.

Sexual Activity: You should avoid sexual activity for 2-3 weeks and resume when you are comfortable doing so. You may be glad to know that BPH and its treatments rarely cause problems with sex. Even if you have retrograde ejaculation, orgasm shouldn't feel any different than it used to.

Urinary Symptoms: You may experience urinary urgency, urinary frequency and discomfort with voiding. This should improve within a weeks after surgery. Should you develop severe lower abdominal pain, difficulty voiding, fevers or bleeding as described above, please contact my office or go to your nearest Emergency Department.

Pain Control: You can expect to have very little pain from this procedure. If there is discomfort from the procedure, it is most commonly described as being dysuria (burning with urination). Most patients do not require any prescription pain medications upon discharge. Generally, Tylenol or Extra-Strength Tylenol or an anti-inflammatory will be sufficient to control any discomfort you may have.

Follow-Up Appointment: My office will contact you with a follow-up appointment time and date.

When to Seek Medical Attention:

- Bright red bleeding in urine with heavy clots
- Chills or fever over 38 degrees C (101 degrees F)
- Inability to urinate for more than 4 hours if you do not have a catheter
- Feeling of bladder fullness that does not go away after urinating
- Severe pain that is not relieved by pain medication
- No urine draining from the catheter

For Urgent or Emergent situations, please call my office at 905-875-3920 during office hours (9:00am-5:00pm) or outside these hours, please go to your nearest Emergency Department.

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