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# **PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Be very careful not to get any cuts or scratches anywhere near your surgical site (entire limb) before surgery, as these can be a source of infection. The worst of all are cat scratches. Do not even play with your cat the week before surgery. If an inflamed cut or scratch is present on the day of surgery, your surgery may have to be rescheduled.
2. Do not have any dental work prior to your surgery or plan to have any for at least 3 weeks after your surgery.
3. If having hand surgery, keep your hands as clean as possible in the last few days before surgery. Remove all grease dirt and oil as meticulously as possible especially from under the fingernails.
4. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before surgery.
5. If you have critical medications to take (such as cardiac medications), you may take these with a tiny sip of water.
6. For 10 days prior to surgery do not take any aspirin compounds or antiinflammatory pain relievers such as Aspirin, Motrin, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Aleve, Nuprin, Voltaren, Orudis, etc. Tylenol is OK.
7. Write down on a sheet of paper a list of all medications you are currently taking and their doses along with a list of your major medical problems and previous surgeries. This is to make it easier for you when the hospital personnel will be asking for all this information.
8. Wear loose clothing that can fit over a bulky bandage for the return trip home. Leave all jewelry at home. You must enter the OR wearing a hospital gown; the hospital will not be responsible for jewelry you take off in the pre-op holding area.
9. You must have someone to drive you. You will not be allowed to leave the hospital unaccompanied after surgery. It is not advisable to drive with a splint.
10. The scheduled check in time is well in advance of your surgical time. There will be some waiting. Bring something to read.
11. Make sure to leave your phone number with the pre op nurses. Surgical schedules change during the day due to emergencies etc. The hospital must have a way to contact you.
12. If you are scheduled for outpatient surgery you will be able to leave several hours after your surgery is finished. If you are scheduled for a "23 hour stay", you will leave the following late morning.