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Instructions for surgery

For at least two weeks before any surgery or procedure, the patient should refrain from taking aspirin or other medications containing aspirin. Children should never be given aspirin because of the risk of developing Reye's syndrome. Please refer to the hand-out regarding aspirin compounds.

If the patient or patient's family has had any problems with anesthesia, the surgeon should be informed, in particular, malignant hypertension. If the patient is taking any medications, has sickle cell anemia, has a bleeding disorder, is pregnant, has concerns about the transfusion of blood, or has used steroids in the past year, the surgeon should be informed. If the patient typically requires antibiotics prior to any procedures, please notify the surgeon as well.

After midnight prior to the surgery, nothing (chewing gum, mouthwashes, throat lozenges, toothpaste, water) may be taken by mouth. Anything in the stomach may be vomited when anesthesia is inducted and this is dangerous.

A pre-operative nurse will call you the day before surgery.

When the patient arrives at the hospital or surgery center, the anesthesiologist or nursing staff will meet with the patient and family to review the patient's history. The patient will then be taken to the operating room and given an anesthetic.

After the operation, the patient will be taken to the recovery room.