



Breast Surgery Follow-Up Schedule

For patients who have had major breast surgery, we follow patients in this office for a year postoperatively. Because healing and recovery take a while beyond suture removal, it is necessary to return to this office for advice and counsel on the variety of issues that may occur regarding further treatments. Each patient is an individual with unique issues, so this is just a generic "routine" follow-up description.

Immediately post-operatively:

a) We typically see a patient 7-14 days after surgery to look at the wounds, remove any sutures, and give wound management advice. In addition, there are the next steps in treatment for the breast diagnosis which will also be discussed. Other consultations such as radiation oncology or medical oncology will be discussed and arranged as needed.

b) Patients return in 1-3 weeks for a return visit to discuss wound care but also any consultations obtained during that time. We discuss treatments, options of treatment, second opinions and further testing results. Secondary treatments beyond surgery are then initiated.

Secondary treatments:

c) If secondary treatments are given, such as radiation or chemotherapy, we usually meet during and/or after those treatments to discuss next steps. Despite being a surgical office, our experience in this field provides a "second opinion" with clinical examples of other patients who have gone through similar treatments. We have many years of experience that may be helpful in dealing with secondary treatments.

Mammograms:

d) Typically our first mammogram is obtained at 6 months from the original surgery. That mammogram is to document the changes that have occurred due to surgery plus any other treatment such as radiation treatments. We wish to see how the breast has changed so we have a new "baseline mammogram" of that side to compare future mammograms.

e) One year after surgery, we obtain a bilateral mammogram and recheck the patient. At that time, we believe the patient can graduate from this office and return as needed in the future. Individual needs may vary but this is the most typical course.