

Instructions for Patients Post-op AMS 800 Urinary Sphincter Procedure

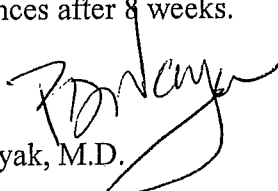
Artificial urinary sphincter by American Medical Systems is a three-piece device inserted for treatment of total urinary incontinence, which is referred to as intrinsic sphincter deficiency. Usually this is done post radical prostatectomy, but there are other indications. It involves three components, the first of which is a reservoir behind the pubic bone in the lower part of the abdomen. This is rather deep and patient cannot feel this. The second part is a cuff which is placed below the bladder with an incision in the perineum that is between scrotum and rectum, and again this cannot be felt by the patient. The third part is a pump which is in the scrotum which can be felt by the patient in the superficial part of the scrotum and that's the only part the patient has to use to activate the sphincter to be able to urinate.

Postoperatively patients are advised to shower, but not to have a bath, etc. until their follow-up appointment (approximately 7-10 days post-op). There will be a clear dressing in the lower part of the abdomen or the suprapubic area, and also a clear dressing in the area between the scrotum and the anus. If the dressings come off, you may leave these off. It is better to avoid prolonged periods of sitting on the perineum where the lower dressing is for approximately 6-8 weeks and if prolonged sitting more than one hour is necessary use a donut so that there is no pressure on the cuff. In the future horseback riding and other activities which involve pressure on the perineum is not advised because it can damage the sphincter. Again, it does not hurt to use a donut to sit on for prolonged periods of driving, etc.

It is recommended the scrotal pump be pulled down gently every day for six weeks to prevent its migration in the upper part of the scrotum where it may be difficult to feel. This is necessary until the pump is fixed in the scrotum. Again, you will be instructed about this in the postoperative period. If there is any drainage or discharge, fever, etc. you should call our office immediately or go to the nearest emergency room.

It takes approximately six weeks for the cuff and the pump to heal so you will be incontinent in the meantime and I recommend not to use any Foley catheter and use the pads or whatever device you have used in the past for incontinence. No direct pressure should be applied to the pump or the scrotum. In approximately 6 weeks instructions will be given how to activate the sphincter and how to operate it. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Do not lift more than 20 lbs for 6 weeks. You can drive short distances after 2 weeks and long distances after 8 weeks.


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