# Postsurgical Bleeding

You have developed bleeding after surgery. A little bleeding following surgery may be normal. Sometimes a second surgery to stop the bleeding is needed.

## SYMPTOMS

**The problems of bleeding following surgery depend on the amount and location of the bleeding:**

- Sometimes there is a little bleeding from a wound following surgery. This is extremely common. It is not usually problem.
- Some surgeries will always have a small amount of bleeding following the surgery. An example of this would be a D & C (dilatation and curettage). This is a procedure where the inside of the uterus is scraped out. Because the surface is raw inside the uterus after the procedure, there is almost always some bleeding or oozing.
- Occasionally there may be a small vessel that either breaks loose from a *suture* (stitch) or a vessel that was not bleeding during the procedure because of spasm in the vessel. Then when the spasm goes away after surgery, bleeding begins.
- Bleeding into your brain after brain surgery happens occasionally and is very dangerous.

## DIAGNOSIS

- Your caregiver will often know what is wrong by examining you.

## TREATMENT

- The treatment of bleeding problems following surgery will depend on the amount and the location.
- Your caregiver will decide if it is safe to watch this. If the problem does not get better, some additional surgery may be needed.
- Worrisome bleeding may require faster action and more surgery. It may be necessary to take you immediately back to surgery if there is a sudden loss of blood pressure following surgery. There may not be time to consult with family, or even the patient, if the problems are sudden and severe.
- If transfusions are needed, a possible side effect is a transfusion reaction. This is similar to an allergic reaction to the blood you are getting. Your caregiver can take care of this problem if it arises.

## HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINOR BLEEDING THAT CAN BE OBSERVED

Call if bleeding is increased, or there is increased pain, swelling, heat or redness in the wound or you develop an unexplained temperature.

**If you have questions about your care, discuss them with your caregiver. Make sure all of your questions are answered.**

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