

Health Connection

FROM MOUNTAIN WEST MEDICAL CENTER

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just for women**

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for cancer
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conditioning



MOUNTAIN WEST
Medical Center

Preparing for outpatient surgery

Thanks to the miracle of science, surgeries that once required a hospital stay can now be done on an outpatient basis. That's good news for those who recover better in the comfort of home, but it also means that any necessary arrangements must be made before the surgery date. If you or a loved one is facing outpatient surgery, try the suggestions below to help make the experience as smooth as possible.

PLAN AHEAD

As surgery day draws closer, you'll find it helpful to have certain things taken care of. Once you know your surgery date and time, ask yourself these questions:

- **Do I need to make any changes in my house's setup?** You may have to set up a temporary bedroom on the first floor if you think you'll have difficulty climbing stairs, for instance.
- **Do I have enough food in the house?** Stock up on meals in the freezer (either homemade or store-bought) so you

won't have to worry about food preparation. Ask your doctor about dietary restrictions or recommendations.

- **Will I need help in the house?** Plan to have a friend or a family member drive you home from the hospital. It's also a good idea to have someone stay with you during the first 24 hours. After that, schedule your visitors. They'll brighten your mood but may also cut into your resting time. Be sure to limit visits based on how you feel.
- **Is there anyone I'm responsible for?** If you have baby-sitting or caretaking responsibilities, remember to make other arrangements for your recovery period.

THE DAY BEFORE

Your doctor will probably instruct you not to eat or drink within eight hours of surgery. Ask your doctor whether you should abstain from taking medication or bring a day's dosage with you to the hospital.

If you're recovering from or coming down with a cold, tell your doctor. Your surgery may be postponed until you feel healthy.

Because skin-tone changes can sometimes be a sign of postsurgery problems, don't wear any makeup the day of surgery, including eye makeup and nail polish. Also, plan to wear loose clothing to the hospital.

AFTER SURGERY

Tell your healthcare team about any discomfort, irritation or pain you feel. How long you stay at the hospital will depend on your ability to drink fluids, walk and urinate. The amount of pain you're in will also affect your discharge. Before you leave, get a written list of postoperative instructions, symptoms to monitor and in-case-of-emergency phone numbers.





A strong, stable core helps reduce your risk of injury and prevent back pain.

At the core of fitness

postures that focus on building flexibility, balance and strength.

- **Tai chi.** This Chinese ritual involves precise, relaxed exercises to increase both agility and balance.

- **Pilates.** It's the latest craze, involving the use of certain exercises to create longer and stronger muscles without the bulk.

- **Weight training.** Focus on exercises that target your core muscles. Start light and increase the intensity of your workout over time. You may want to consult with a personal trainer to develop a program tailored to your needs.

- **Stability ball.** Sometimes

Head of core conditioning? It's the "apple-a-day" way for you to ensure that your body stays strong and steady. Simply put, core conditioning is a series of exercises that target your core—the body's center of power that starts just below your shoulders and ends just below your hips. You work out to gain strength in the muscles that control your trunk and spine while improving balance, agility and flexibility. Adding core strength helps you perform daily functions like lifting grocery bags, playing with your kids and getting in and out of your car. A strong, stable core also helps reduce your risk of injury and prevent back pain.

Try these exercises to build the back, abdominal, thigh and buttock muscles associated with a strong core. Check with your physician first to be sure you're starting at a fitness level that's right for you.

- **Yoga.** This ancient practice involves stretching and holding

called a Swiss ball or a resist-a-ball, this large, rubber exercise ball is one of the best ways to actively target and stabilize your core. Start with the ball slightly deflated or secure it against a wall until you're ready to add more challenge to your balance. Choose a ball that comes with a video of basic exercises.

- **BOSU ball.** Shaped like a stability ball cut in half—flat on one side, domed on the other—the BOSU ball is designed to activate and strengthen your core as you perform exercises on it. Many gyms offer BOSU ball classes, and you can also buy video and DVD workouts to use with the BOSU at home.

- **Stability equipment.** Other light equipment ranging from foam rollers, balance pads and discs and mini-trampolines (ideal for beginners) to balance and wobble boards (for the more advanced) can help you improve core strength and stability.



Lisa Perryman, M.D.
General Surgeon



Gail Strindberg, M.D.
General and Thoracic Surgeon

Advanced tool now here for cancer surgery

Mountain West Medical Center (MWMC) now offers an advanced technique to aid in staging melanoma and breast cancer. The medical center has acquired equipment to perform specialized surgery called **sentinel lymph node biopsy**, a standard of care in surgical treatment of these cancers. The biopsy can determine whether the cancer has spread and helps to establish an appropriate treatment plan.

THE LYMPH NODE CONNECTION

Cancer cells may break away from a cancerous tumor

and spread to other parts of the body through the lymphatic system. The sentinel lymph node is the first node that captures escaped cancer cells. In the past, multiple lymph nodes were removed to test for cancer cells, which required much more extensive surgery and brought the risk of side effects. By using this newer, more accurate and less-invasive procedure, the cancer's stage can be measured and patients can recover more quickly and with fewer risks.

HOW IT WORKS

A low-level radioactive tracer is injected around the tumor site. Then, in the operating room, a noninvasive gamma probe tracks radioactive drainage to the sentinel node. The surgeon then makes a small incision and removes the lymph node. If it's tumor free, no further surgery is needed. If the node is positive, removal of other nodes is necessary. This method is highly accurate in determining whether or not the cancer has spread to the lymphatic system.

Two full-time MWMC surgeons, Lisa Perryman, M.D., and Gail Strindberg, M.D., are experienced with this technique. Diagnoses are made and biopsies, radiologic tests, surgeries and chemotherapy treatments are performed under the direction of our oncologist Nitin Chandramouli, M.D., at the medical center.

Learn more!

For more information about cancer diagnosis and treatment, call Mountain West Medical Center at (435) 843-3600.

Healthy program, just for women



LuAnne Banks
Healthy Woman Program and
Advisory Council Coordinator

Now in its second year, Mountain West Medical Center's Healthy Woman program continues to be an action-oriented educational resource for area women and their families.

Led by an advisory council of 16 local women, the program is committed to creating public awareness about health and social issues that involve women and their loved ones. The program's

mission is to empower women with the knowledge and confidence to make informed healthcare decisions for themselves and their families.

HELP FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERS

According to industry statistics, women make up to 90 percent of all healthcare decisions while balancing careers, primary and secondary families, issues with parents and civic work. "Women are the healthcare leaders of their families," says LuAnne Banks, the new coordinator for Healthy Woman and the advisory council. "They want first-hand information to make educated

choices, and they want an active role in partnering with physicians."

Banks, who has a marketing degree, is excited about how the organization actively reaches out to local women for the greater good of the community. "It's really wonderful for me to be part of Healthy Woman and to see how the program assists local women in learning more about vital healthcare issues," she says. "The monthly seminars we've hosted have been gratifying. They give a rare, one-on-one opportunity to hear physicians and specialists talk about healthcare issues like breast cancer and weight management."

Healthy Woman monthly seminars cover physical and emotional healthcare, as well as financial well-being. Healthcare topics include information on heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer, menopause, nutrition, osteoporosis, stress management and life balance issues.

Advisory council members include Melissa Augustyn, M.D.; LuAnne Banks; Jennie Cao; Susan Cummings; Aleta Dean; Allie Anderson; Lori Jensen; Teresa McNeill; Bette Molgard; Kami Perkins; Lisa Perryman, M.D.; Sandra Shepard; Gail Strindberg, M.D.; Debbie Winn; Becky Trigg; and Kathy Boltz.



Join today!

For more information about Healthy Woman, contact Advisory Council members, visit www.mountainwestmc.com or call LuAnne Banks at (435) 843-3787.

HEALTHWISE QUIZ

How much do you know about **menopause**?

Take this quiz to find out.

1 The average age when women in the United States reach menopause is:

- a. 51
- b. 55
- c. 48
- d. 64

2 The single biggest risk factor for osteoporosis, or brittle bone disease, is menopause. All of the following are signs that you may have osteoporosis except which one?

- a. height loss
- b. tooth loss
- c. joint pain
- d. backaches

3 One of the few reasons you should consider using hormone therapy is to:

- a. prevent ovarian cancer
- b. relieve severe menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes
- c. protect against heart disease
- d. lower your risk of breast cancer

4 The transitional period of two to 10 years before menopause, characterized by hormone fluctuations that can cause menopausal symptoms, is called:

- a. premature menopause
- b. premenopause
- c. perimenopause
- d. postmenopause

5 Of the following remedies, which is the only one approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to relieve hot flashes?

- a. soy
- b. black cohosh
- c. phytoestrogens
- d. hormone therapy

Take control!

7 steps to healthy blood pressure and cholesterol

Heat disease and stroke kill millions of Americans each year. Unless you take steps to control your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, you may be at risk for these diseases. Get on the road to better health today with these seven simple steps:

- 1 Take a walk.** Exercise helps control your blood pressure and improves your cholesterol. Choose activities you enjoy and strive for at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most days of the week.
- 2 Manage your weight.** Reducing your weight by just 10 pounds may help lower your blood pressure and reduce bad cholesterol. Since dropping pounds may be easier when working with a group, ask your healthcare provider to refer you to experts, groups or classes that can help.
- 3 Toss the cigarettes.** Smoking causes blood vessels to narrow and blood pressure to rise. It also makes it easier for cholesterol-rich plaque to stick to artery walls. A smoking cessation class can offer extra support.
- 4 Eat well.** Enjoy vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans and legumes, along with moderate amounts of lean protein and healthy fats like those in salmon and olive oil. Avoid foods high in saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, sugar and trans fatty acids.
- 5 Try soy.** A recent study shows that two servings a day of uncooked soy protein—found in tofu, soy milk or soy powder—lowers cholesterol levels by as much as 9 percent.
- 6 Limit your liquor.** Women should consume no more than one drink a day and men no more than two drinks a day.
- 7 Get screened.** Routinely checking your blood pressure and cholesterol levels keeps you on top of your cardiovascular disease risks. If your blood pressure's high, ask your doctor about buying a blood pressure monitor for home use.





First-aid foresight

Would you know what to do?

Sooner or later, we all face a medical problem that calls for immediate first aid and clear thinking. Knowing what to do next is a health skill everyone needs.

Bleeding. Apply pressure to the wound with a thick, clean cloth and raise the wound above the heart. If bleeding is severe or isn't controlled in five minutes or if the wound is very dirty, longer than an inch or gaping, get immediate medical care.

Puncture wounds. Don't self-treat deep puncture wounds since they can result in deep-tissue injury or infection.

Burns. Run cool water over minor burns, immerse in cold water or wrap the burned area in a cold, wet cloth for about 10 minutes or until pain subsides. Apply an antibiotic ointment and cover with a bandage. Call your doctor if blisters form.

Poisoning. Before doing anything, call the National Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Induce vomiting only if instructed.

Shock. Shock may cause cold, clammy skin; weakness; confusion; a rapid heartbeat; or deep, shallow or irregular breathing. Keep the victim warm and lying down on his or her back until help arrives. Don't give the victim anything to drink.

Electrical injuries. Do not touch someone who has just been electrocuted—the current may pass through you. While waiting for help to arrive, try to turn off the source of electricity.

Sprains and strains. To treat sprains and strains, follow the RICE method: rest, ice, compression and elevation. Apply ice packs or cold-water compresses to relieve swelling. Wrap the injury in an elastic bandage and keep it elevated above the heart.

Broken bones. Quickly call for emergency assistance. It's best not to move the person or attempt to straighten a broken bone.

Dine the Greek way

Although many of their meals consist of 40 percent fat, residents of the Greek isle of Crete who eat a traditional diet live longer than most other ethnic groups. In fact, Greeks who haven't succumbed to Western-style meals are 20 percent less likely to die of coronary artery disease and about 30 percent less likely to die of cancer than Americans are.

These stats make nutritionists take note, and what they've found is that the traditional Greek diet is one of the healthiest eating styles you can choose. The diet focuses on:

- vegetables, fruits, fish, grains, beans, nuts and legumes like chickpeas
- olive oil as the sole source of added fat
- only a few weekly servings of poultry, eggs and sweets
- daily, small to moderate amounts of cheese and yogurt
- red meats saved for special occasions only

What's more, the Greek diet is tasty—a sign that you don't have to give up good food to stay healthy.

BEWARE OF TROJAN HORSES

But be cautious: Some Greek foods found in the United States don't fit the heart-healthy profile of traditional



Greek cuisine. The nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest analyzed typical restaurant-size portions of some popular Greek meals. What they found could stop your heart. For example, spanakopita (spinach pie in phyllo dough) has 410 calories and 24 grams of fat, beef or lamb gyro (sandwich) has 760 calories and 20 grams of fat and moussaka (a meat and eggplant casserole) has 830 calories and 48 grams of fat!



Chuck Davis
Chief Executive Officer

Dear friends and neighbors,

At Mountain West Medical Center, we're honored that you entrust us with your family's healthcare, especially in times of need, and we appreciate the opportunity and privilege to care for you and your loved ones.

We take very seriously our obligation to have

quality healthcare available to the community 24/7.

We believe the additions of new technology, equipment, expanded services and physician specialties in the last 12 months demonstrate this commitment. However, we're not content to accept the status quo. In the upcoming year, we'll increase our services in cardiology, orthopedics, internal medicine and urology. In future editions of *Health Connection*, we'll share information about Tooele County's first full-time cardiologist, who will begin seeing patients next August.

In this issue of our quarterly publication, we're pleased to share some timely articles and information

that may be useful in your everyday life.

In closing, please allow me to reiterate that it's Mountain West Medical Center's privilege to serve our community. We're not treating patients ... we're caring for our friends, family and neighbors.

Regards,

CHUCK DAVIS
Chief Executive Officer
Mountain West Medical Center



Fast fact

It's never too late to quit smoking—and the benefits start 20 minutes after your last cigarette. After 15 smoke-free years, your risk of coronary heart

disease is that of a nonsmoker, and your risk of dying from lung cancer is only slightly higher than that of a nonsmoker.

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