

Post-Operative Priorities

Nursing

What the first hours after surgery are for, and what is watched.

Recovery is active surveillance, not observation of a stable patient.

Watch closely

Airway and level of consciousness

Respiratory rate and saturations

Bleeding: wound, drains, and concealed

Blood pressure and pulse trend

Pain, nausea, and their control

Urine output and fluid balance

Prevent

Venous thromboembolism, from day zero

Chest complications: sit up, deep breathe

Pressure damage during long immobility

Urinary retention, especially after spinal

Delirium, especially in older patients

Surgical site infection: aseptic dressing care

Educational reference. Post-operative instructions, observation frequency and drain management are set by the surgical team and local