Home Care After Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) or Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) Closure

You had an ASD or PFO closure on _____ through the right/left femoral vein.

What to Expect

- You may be sore and tender at the site. This may last for one week.
- You may have a small amount of bloody drainage at the site.
- There may be a bruise at the site. The bruise may take 2-3 weeks to go away.

Pain Control

You may take either Tylenol® every 4-6 hours **or** Motrin® (ibuprofen) every 6-8 hours.

Incision Care

- You may shower 24 hours after the closure. Remove the bandage over the site before taking a shower.
- Gently clean the site with soap and water. Pat it dry. Cover the site with a Band-Aid®. Do this for three days.
- Keep the site clean and dry.

Medicines

You will need to take baby aspirin every day for the next 6 months or longer. Some patients also take Plavix® (clopidogrel). For the next 6 months, you will need to take antibiotics before certain medical procedures. Your doctor will decide if you need to keep taking these medicines after 6 months.

Keep taking your present medicines as prescribed. Tell your doctor if you have any side effects. **Do not** stop taking aspirin or Plavix® (clopidogrel) without talking to your cardiologist first.

Return to Work/School

You may return to work/school on _____.

Activity Restrictions

For the next 5 days:

- **Do not** sit in a bathtub, hot tub, or go into a swimming pool.
- **Do not** lift more than 10 pounds.
- **Do not** strain.
- **No** vigorous activity.

Diet

- You should be able to eat a normal diet the morning after the procedure.
- You may eat and drink the night of the procedure if you feel up to it.
- You may not feel hungry or feel nauseous the first night. This is normal and will get better. We suggest a light diet the first night, if hungry.

Follow-Up

You will have a follow-up cardiology visit with an echocardiogram in 1-2 weeks then again in 6 months. We will check your device and heart function about every 2-3 years routinely.

When to Call

Call 911 or go to the emergency room if:

- You have bleeding or sudden swelling at the site. Apply direct pressure to the site and call for help. Keep holding pressure until you get help.
- Your leg becomes numb, cold, or turns blue or you have severe pain.

Call the **doctor** right away if you have:

- Any signs of infection:
  - Redness, swelling, or drainage at the site
  - Prolonged pain
  - Fever over 101° F for two readings taken 4 hours apart
- Severe pain
- Chest pain
- Palpitations
- Increased shortness of breath

When to Call

If you have questions, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, please visit www.uwhealth.org/.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#7510.