



Orthopaedic Surgery - Arthroscopic Surgery - Joint Replacement - Sports Medicine - Fracture Care

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## Post-Operative Instruction Checklist

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Surgery \_\_\_\_\_

**Please call 210-477-5151 to schedule a follow-up appointment**

### Dressing

Your dressing should remain intact until evaluated in the office. Please keep your dressing clean and dry.

### Bathing

Please do not get incisions wet. Please cover dressing while showering. DO NOT SOAK the incision.

## **Driving**

Please do not drive until you are evaluated in the office after surgery. You are considered an impaired driver following surgery, and if you choose to drive, your insurance may not cover any accidents that may occur.

## **Cold Therapy/Ice**

Continuous icing will help to decrease swelling and provide pain relief. It is very important to always have protection between the ice pad and your skin. Never place the ice pack directly on your skin; this could lead to an injury to your skin. If the ice causes increased pain, skin rash or irritation, discontinue its use and call the office. Please also note that condensation from the ice bag may wet your dressing. Use a towel between the ice and dressing if this begins to happen.

## Sling and Elevation

Keep sling in place. Only remove the sling 3-4 times in 1 day; to EXTEND, or straighten out your elbow, and FLEX, or bend, your elbow. This is to prevent your arm from getting stiff.

## Physical therapy:

Following surgery you will be given instructions about physical therapy, occasionally therapy will start within the first few weeks after surgery. We ask during the first week following surgery that you do the following

## Exercises at home:

- **Deep breathe and cough** to help prevent a respiratory infection. Take 10 deep breaths every hour followed by a cough.
- **Finger Motion:** Moving your fingers and making / releasing a fist as much as possible reduces inflammation and swelling in your upper extremity.



## Post-operative Medication:

1. **Take 1 Enteric Coated ASPIRIN 325 MG every 12 hours for 4 weeks to help reduce the risk of a blood clot from forming after the surgery.**
2. **NAPROSYN 250 MG 1 TABLET EVERY 12 HOURS WITH FOOD**
3. **NORCO 10/325 MG 1 – 2 TABLETS EVERY 4 – 6 HOURS AS NEEDED FOR PAIN**
4. **DULCOLAX STOOL SOFTNER EVERY 12 HOURS AS NEEDED FOR CONSTIPATION**

## Side effects of medication

**Anti-inflammatory** (Celebrex, Naprosyn, Ibuprofen, etc.) You should take all medication with food to help prevent nausea. Please notify office if nausea, vomiting, rash, headaches, abdominal cramping, blood in your stool or other symptoms occur. Do not combine other anti-inflammatories or Aspirin

products while taking your anti-inflammatory. Note that these medications are not prescribed for all fracture patients.

**Pain Medication** (Norco, Tylenol #3, etc.) Take after food. Notify office if nausea, vomiting, headaches, rash occur. Other side effects include; drowsiness, dizziness and constipation. **Do not take TYLENOL** or other acetaminophen products while taking pain medication such as Vicodin or Tylenol #3, both of these medications contain acetaminophen.

**Signs and Symptoms of Complications** Although an infection is rare it can be very serious if it goes untreated. Please call our office if you experience increased pain not relieved with medication, high fever, chills, redness, swelling or drainage from incision.

For further questions, or if any problems develop, please call Dr. Lynch's MA, Melissa, at 210-477-5151.