



POST-OPERATIVE HARDWARE REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS

What was found: _____

What was done: _____

1. Wound Care

- * You may remove the dressing in 4 days and apply band aids to cover stitches. Please leave steri strips on (white tapes across wound). It is OK if they fall off.
- * If you have been placed in a cast, the dressing will be removed at the first post-operative visit
- * You may shower in 4 days with the incision covered. Keep it clean and dry.
- * Do not get into a tub or pool until the sutures are removed.
- You have dissolvable sutures
- Sutures will be removed in our office in 10 to 14 days

2. Icing

- A Cryocuff has been applied to your knee. It is recommended that you use it fairly consistently for the first 24 to 48 hours to help diminish the swelling. After the 48-hour period, if it is comfortable for you, you may use the Cryocuff or apply ice packs to knee 3-4 times per day for 30 minutes until swelling is resolved.
- Please apply ice packs to the knee 3-4 times per day for 30 minutes until swelling is resolved
- Although clearly not as effective, you can still apply ice packs around a cast.

3. Crutches

- You may walk weight-bearing as tolerated with crutches. Your crutches may be discontinued when you can walk comfortably (usually 3 – 5 days).
- Please walk PARTIAL weight bearing (about 50% of your weight maximum) until your postop visit. Crutches will continue for ____ weeks.

- Please walk TOUCHDOWN weight bearing (about 20% of your maximum weight) until your postop visit. Crutches will continue for ____ weeks.

- Please NO WEIGHTBEARING on the affected extremity. Crutches will continue for ____ weeks.

4. Brace/Splint/Cast

- You were placed into a cast or splint. Keep this on until follow-up. Do not get it wet. Do not do any dressing changes.

** If there is white tape on the cast, then the cast has been split. If the patient has increased pain, numbness or tingling after surgery, DO NOT HESITATE TO TAKE THE TAPE OFF AND ALLOW THE CAST SPLIT TO INCREASE. This allows the cast size to get bigger which may be necessary if there is swelling after surgery. IF THIS DOES NOT RELIEVE THE SYMPTOMS OF PAIN OR NUMBNESS OR TINGLING CALL US IMMEDIATELY

- You were given a sling. Use this as needed. You may discontinue using the sling if it not necessary.

- You may be placed into a knee immobilizer. Keep this on for ____ weeks.

- You have been placed into a hinged knee brace.

Range of motion is set at ____ to _____. This will continue until follow-up.

Please keep the brace locked at 0 degrees when walking and sleeping.

Brace may be unlocked from 0 to ____ degrees of flexion when sitting. Brace may be removed to shower and ice if you are lying in bed flat and not moving leg.

- You may be given an air cast boot. You should wear the boot every time you are up and walking.

5. Physical Therapy

If you do not have a cast/splint/or boot on, you may begin some gentle range of motion exercises.

In general, formal physical therapy will be organized for you at your post-operative visit if necessary. No weightlifting or any form of water therapy.

6. Pain Control

- If you had a nerve block, your leg may be numb for 12-18 hours. Although you may not be having much pain, start taking your pain medication 6 hours after surgery.

* You have been prescribed _____ (which is a narcotic pain medication) for your post-op pain control.

* Use the medicine as prescribed and do not drive, drink alcohol, or perform duties that require concentration (i.e. school or work) while on the narcotic medication.

* After the first three days, you may find it beneficial to take an over the counter anti-inflammatory such as Ibuprofen (or Motrin or Advil or naprosyn or Aleve) for additional pain control if you do not have a contraindications to taking this medication (i.e. allergy to the medication, stomach ulcers or kidney problems).

7. Other Medications

- Valium is a muscle relaxant that is used for muscle spasms that are quite common after surgery. Take one tablet up to 3 times a day. Use as prescribed unless contradicted. Do not drive, operate machinery, or drink alcohol while on valium. This can be taken in conjunction with the pain medication. Half a pill can be used if the effects are too strong.
- Zofran is an anti-nausea medication. Use as directed for nausea or vomiting.
- Indocin is a strong anti-inflammatory used for the prevention of heterotopic ossification (excess bone re-formation). Take 1 pill a day with food for 3 weeks. DO NOT mix this with other anti-inflammatory medications such as Aleve, Motrin or Advil during these first three weeks. Once you are finished with the Indocin, you can switch to these medications (see section 6 above)

8. Driving

You may not drive at least until your post-op visit when you and Dr. Schleyer can make a decision.

9. Sports

Do not resume sports until you have discussed this on your first post-op visit.

10. Additional Information:

- Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT):

Blood clots (DVT) are unusual but can occur after lower extremity surgery. Please call the office for calf pain, leg swelling, or difficulty breathing. If you have a clotting disorder or there is a family history of blood clots, please inform Dr. Schleyer and the office.

- No DVT prophylaxis necessary.
- Surgical Support Stockings: Compressive stockings (thigh high for hips, knee high for knees) should be used for two weeks after surgery on the operative leg. These can be purchased over-the-counter at a pharmacy or medical supply store.
- Aspirin: Take one enteric-coated aspirin daily for 3 weeks after surgery. Stop for any gastrointestinal or wound bleeding.
- Lovenox: A prescription for an injectable low molecular-weight heparin for 2 weeks after surgery will be given to you. This should be starting the evening of the first day after surgery

Please resume birth control 1 cycle AFTER surgery.

WHAT IS TO BE EXPECTED:

After surgery, there is a variable amount of pain and swelling, often depending on how much surgery was done. This usually diminishes after several days. It is helpful to keep the leg elevated above your heart and to apply ice regularly.

WHAT SHOULD BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY:



Signs and symptoms to report:

- *persistent fever
- *sudden increase in pain or swelling
- *wound redness, drainage, or increased skin temperature around the incision
- *increasing numbness
- *deep calf pain and/or swelling
- *shortness of breath

Who to call:

- * If you have any problems please call Dr. Schleyer's office at (978) 927-3040
- * You should have a post-op appointment scheduled in 10-14 days. If you do not, call (978) 927-3040 to set this up.