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**Post-Operative Instructions**

**Patella ORIF**

1. Maintain post-op dressing for 7 days then change as needed. Can change earlier if dressing becomes saturated or soiled.

2. Please do not use any ointments under the bandage.  If Band-Aid / dressing gets soiled or wet: gently remove, pat area dry, then redress site(s).

3. Use **ice** as much as possible for the first 7 days and then as needed for pain.  Ice should not be applied directly to the skin as it can cause burns.  Ice can be used in a 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off fashion.  If you have a large bulky dressing in place, you may leave an ice pack on for longer than 20 minutes.  An ace wrap may be used to help control swelling. Do not wrap the ace too thickly or the ice will not penetrate.

4. You may **shower** on postoperative day 3 (72 hrs post op); however keep the surgical dressing and incisions dry. Keep the wound dry at all times, until your sutures are removed at your first post op appointment (10-14 days after surgery). Do not soak the surgical body part in water or go swimming in the pool or ocean until advised (usually around 4 weeks post-op).

5. Keep your **leg elevated** with a pillow under your calf, NOT under the knee.  Elevation only helps to reduce swelling if your knee is above the level of your heart.  It is normal to have some swelling in your calf and foot in the first few days after surgery, but calf pain should improve in a few days, not worsen.

6. Keep the post-op brace on at all times other than for hygiene. The brace should be locked at all times except in physical therapy and when doing exercises. Range of motion exercises to begin at 2 weeks after surgery. If there is a pressure point from your brace on your leg or near the incision, ok to open brace and re-adjust as necessary.

7. **You can bear weight on your operative leg with the brace locked in full extension**. **Crutches** **or walker** are to be used for safety for the first 4-6 weeks until your muscles are strong enough to bear weight without assistance.

8. No **driving** during the first week after surgery regardless of the operative knee. Driving an automobile may begin when the brace is unlocked at all times (usually after 2 weeks) only if the operative knee is the **left**. If the operative knee is the **right**, driving usually begins 3-4 weeks after surgery. Driving a standard transmission usually begins at 4-6 weeks post-surgery regardless of the operative knee.

9. You should already have a post-operative visit scheduled. If not call the office after surgery to make an appointment 10-14 days after surgery..

1. You should already be scheduled to see a **Physical Therapist** 1-2 weeks after surgery.  If not, call the office today! You will be given instructions/ PT protocol for the therapist on the day of your surgery that you MUST present to your PT at the first PT appointment.
2. If you develop a **fever** (101.5), **redness** or **drainage** from the surgical incision site, please call the office.
3. You will receive **prescriptions** for medication to be used after surgery: these may include a narcotic pain medication, an anti-inflammatory, blood clot prevention (Aspirin) and an anti-nausea medication.

* Tylenol (acetaminophen)
  + Take up to 975mg every 8 hours as baseline pain control. Can take on scheduled basis then as needed as pain control improves. Do NOT exceed 3000mg total in a 24 hour period, as this can cause damage to your liver. This is your baseline pain control.
* Narcotic Pain Medication: Oxycodone or Percocet
  + Initially after surgery, you can take 1-2 tablets of the narcotic pain medication every 4-6 hours depending on your pain level. Once your pain is well controlled, you can taper off the medication.
  + Generally used for 1-2 weeks after surgery
  + May cause constipation and/or nausea
* Aspirin 81mg tablet
  + Take every 12 hours (twice daily) starting the morning after surgery. This is to prevent blood clots
  + If you are already on other blood thinner medications please check with Dr. Zogby and your primary care doctor prior to starting Aspirin
* Anti-inflammatory Medication: Meloxicam or Motrin/Ibuprofen
  + If you have any difficulty using anti-inflammatory medications or aspirin, or have a history of ulcer disease, do not use.
  + You may use over the counter ibuprofen (Advil) or Naprosyn (Aleve) instead of the prescription we give you.
* Anti-nausea Medication: Zofran
  + If you have nausea after surgery, call the office so that we can provide appropriate medication.

**Every patient is different: If Dr. Zogby gives you individual instructions (even if they are different from this handout), please follow them.**

**Phone: (760) 943-6700**

**\*\*If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office.\*\***