



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS PROCEDURE: OPEN LATERJET/BRISTOW PROCEDURE

- Pain Medication: You will be given a prescription for pain medication to be taken after surgery. This should be filled and ready for use when you return home from the surgery center/hospital. You should not drive, operate heavy machinery or participate in activities that require concentration while taking narcotic pain medications such as Percocet, Oxycodone, Norco, Vicodin or Tylenol with Codeine. You should take an over the counter stool softener while taking narcotic pain medications to prevent constipation.
- Dressings: Leave the dressing/splint intact until you return for your post-operative visit. Keep incision dry and clean until sutures are removed at your first post-op visit. Do not get the incisions or splint wet until you have been seen by your surgeon and given approval for showering. You will not be able to soak the incision in a bath, pool, or body of water for 4 weeks.
- Cold Therapy Machine: If provided, begin use the day after surgery. Use it three times a day at the manufacturer's setting for one hour each session. Always make sure to apply a barrier between the cold pad and your skin. If you have not been provided with a cold therapy machine, apply ice to surgical area in a waterproof bag for 30 minutes each hour you are awake.
- Sling: Use sling and abduction pillow (if provided) at all times. **DO NOT REMOVE.**
- Post-Operative Appointment: Please make a post-operative appointment to see your surgeon 10-14 days following surgery.
- Prescription Refill Protocol: You **MUST** give your physician **48 hours** notice for any medication refill. Many medications require a written prescription and cannot be called into a pharmacy. Prescriptions **will not** be filled over the weekend.