

Post-Operative Instructions Foot & Ankle

Prescription Medications

Aspirin: *NECESSARY

- This medication is given to help prevent blood clots after surgery. This may also cause stomach upset so take this with food as well.
- Please take 325mg daily.
- You will take this medication for a total of 30 days after surgery.

Percocet (Optional):

- This medication is for pain.
- This medication is to be taken AS NEEDED.
- Plan to stay on a scheduled dose of 1-2 tablets every 6 hours for the first 2-4 days after surgery.
- After 2-4 days you should be able to space out or discontinue the medication.
- Do not drive or drink alcohol while taking this medication.

Colace (Optional):

- Take 1-2 pills throughout the day to prevent constipation, which is common after surgery and while you are taking narcotics for pain control.
- It is normal to take several days to have a bowel movement after surgery.
- Drink plenty of clear liquids as the anesthesia can cause dehydration and constipation

Flexeril (Cyclobenzaprine) (Optional):

- Take this medication to help prevent muscle spasm postoperatively.
- Take 1 tab (10 mg) every 8 hours as needed for muscle spasm; do not take more than 30 mg (3 tablets) in one day.

Zofran (Ondanestron) (Optional):

- This is an anti-nausea medication. Take this AS NEEDED

Over-the-Counter Medications

Aleve (Naproxen) (Optional):

- This medication is for pain and inflammation.
- This medication can be taken as needed or scheduled.
- You can take 1-2 pills (220-440mg) every 12 hours.
- This may cause stomach upset so try to take this with food.

Wound Care and Showering

- Leave the splint on and do not get it wet. It will be removed at your first post-operative visit.
- Do NOT put anything down the splint (even to scratch an itch!).
- Your stitches are absorbable under the skin – you will not need stitches removed after surgery.
- Do not allow pets to sit on your lap or sleep in your bed for at least 4 weeks following surgery. Pets may harbor fleas, mites or other organisms that may cause an infection.

Physical Therapy

- Physical therapy will start after your first postoperative visit.

Weight Bearing

- **You will be NWB (non-weight bearing). Use crutches or a walker.**
- You will be instructed on a weightbearing progression at your first postoperative visit.

Ice

- If using the ice machine, the machine will automatically stay on to provide continuous low temperatures and limit inflammation postoperatively
 - Use it as much as you like or can tolerate for the first 72 hours.
 - After the first 72 hours, try to use it 4-5 times per day for the first two weeks after surgery.
 - You do not need it after 2 weeks.
- If using simple ice packs, ice the knee as much as you can for the first 72 hours – 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off.
 - Ice your knee 4-5 times per day after the first 72 hours.
 - Place the ice onto the knee over a thin layer of clothing or material, but never directly onto the skin.
 - Use as needed for the first 2 weeks.

Ted Hose

- You will be given a pair of ted hose (stockings) to wear after surgery. These help in the prevention of blood clots postoperatively.
- Please wear these at all times for the first 2 weeks following your surgery.

General Activity Levels

- It is beneficial to change positions often after surgery. Alternate sitting, reclining, and lying down approximately every 30 minutes. Feel free to move around at home as much as you can tolerate, as we do not want the knee to get stiff.
- For left sided surgery you will be permitted to drive (automatic transmission) **4 days** after surgery if you are not taking any narcotics and you feel comfortable doing so.
- For right side surgery He should not drive until you are fully weightbearing on the extremity for 4 weeks.

Follow-Up

- A follow up visit will be scheduled with Dr. Vera 10-14 days following your surgery.
- Please call the office at 702-990-2290 if you don't have an appointment.
- Routine post-operative follow-up appointments will be made 2 weeks, 6 weeks, and 3 months following surgery.

When should you Contact the Office?

- You have a fever > 101.4 (a low-grade temp is expected after surgery but let us know if it gets this high!)
- You develop chills or sweats
- You have pus or increasing redness and warmth surrounding the incision sites
- You develop calf swelling or calf pain after surgery
- You experience any chest pain or difficulty of breathing

Possible Postoperative Complications and Risks

- **Infection:** The risk of infection is decreased with a sterile operating environment and antibiotics. Starting three days before your surgery, be sure to keep the skin of your knee as clean as possible using soap and water. Following surgery, careful handling of the incision sites reduces the risk of infection.
- **DVT:** Developing a DVT (deep vein thrombosis, aka blood clot) is decreased through instituting early motion, mechanical means (TED hose) and medications (Aspirin). Following the pre-operative and post-operative instructions will reduce the risk of blood clot formation.
- **Pain:** With any surgical procedure, there is a potential complication of pain. Medication, ice, rest, compression, elevation, and therapy reduce post-operative pain.