

## POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

### Patellar Stabilization

#### Diet

- Following surgery, nausea is very common. Begin with clear liquids and progress to your daily diet as tolerated.

#### Wound Management

- A bandage is applied to the operative site. Keep this on for 72 hours after the surgery.
- It is normal for there to be drainage and for the dressing/ACE wrap to become blood tinged. If this occurs, reinforce with additional dressing.
- Remove the dressing after the third post-operative day. It is still normal for there to be some drainage. Apply steri-strips or band-aids to the incision sites.
- No showers until after the dressing is removed. No baths or hot tubs!
- Sometimes small incisions are made that do not require suture closure. Please do not be alarmed by this.

#### Activity

- Keep the operative knee in the brace provided at all times, with the exception of showering
- You may remove the brace for nonweightbearing flexion exercises per the instructions of your therapist
- Avoid prolonged standing as this may lead to increased swelling.

- Crutches may be used to assist with walking and you are to remain weightbearing as tolerated on the operative leg unless otherwise directed by your physician.
- Elevate the operative leg with pillows under the foot and ankle to aid in the reduction of swelling.
- No driving until instructed by your physician.
- Sleeping may be performed in a reclining chair or bed with the use of pillows to support the operative site as tolerated.
- Generally, if you have a desk job you may return to work/school on the third post operative day.
- Return to a physically demanding job will be discussed on your postoperative visit.

#### Exercise

- You may begin exercises 24 hours after the surgery to include ankle pumps and quad sets.
- A continuous passive motion machine (CPM) may be used for up to 6 hours per day.
- Use the CPM in 2 hour intervals. Begin motion at a range of 0-40 degrees.
- Formal physical therapy will begin after your return visit and it is safe to perform these exercises at home to assist with a return of strength and motion.

#### Ice/Cryotherapy

- An ice machine or ice packs will be provided and applied at the conclusion of your surgery.
- Use continuously for the first 72 hours postoperatively, then in 30 minute increments 4-5 times per day thereafter as tolerated.

OVER

## Medications

- Most patients require the use of narcotics for a period of time after surgery. Take as directed.
- If you received a femoral nerve block, numbness and loss of function may persist for up to 24 hours postoperatively. You are encouraged to take your prescribed pain medication as indicated on the bottle regardless of pain for the first 24 hours.
- Common side effects of pain medication: nausea, insomnia, itching, constipation, drowsiness, hallucinations.
- Take medications with food to reduce side effects
- Do not operate machinery or moving vehicles while taking the pain medication.
- Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil or Aleve may be taken as directed in addition to the pain medication to control symptoms

## Emergencies

- **If at any time you have questions or emergent concerns contact Dr. Whitehurst or his physician assistant Francie Kelso, PA-C at (815-398-9491).**
- If you are calling after hours or over a weekend you will be directed to the physician answering service and you may be called by the physician or physician assistant on call.
  
- Please call if any of the following arise:
- Fever >101. (It is normal to have a low grade fever for the first 1-2 days after surgery)
- Redness
- Painful swelling
- Numbness

- Shortness of breath
- Excessive bleeding and/or drainage from incision sites
- If you require immediate attention, go to the nearest emergency room

## Follow-up

- A follow-up appointment will be set for 7-10 days after the surgery. If you have questions or concerns about this date contact our scheduler at (815-381-7332) during normal office hours.
- Physical Therapy will begin prior to your first postoperative visit
- If you have additional questions or concerns most questions can be addressed by calling Ashley at 815-484-6958.