



Michael S. Day, MD, MPhil

WellSpan Orthopedics

120 North Seventh Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201, Suite 101

Tel: (717) 263-1220; Fax: (717) 263-6255

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Sagittal Band Repair

Activity

- Elevate the arm at all times to help reduce swelling and pain. Using several pillows, maintain the arm above chest level especially when sitting & sleeping at night.
- You may apply ice packs to your hand and wrist to help with pain and swelling as well (20-30 minutes four times per day).
- Wiggle your exposed fingers regularly. You may use your opposite hand to assist in these exercises.
- Please avoid high force/resistance grasping using your operative hand as well as lifting objects greater than one pound for a period of one month following surgery in order to prevent wound complications.
- You may develop bruising around your forearm and elbow. Do not be alarmed; this is normal following surgery. If you develop significant arm swelling, redness, or tenderness, you should contact our office promptly.

Dressings

- A large bulky compressive bandage/splint has been placed over your wrist. This dressing is designed to minimize swelling in the operative extremity (and should feel “snug”).
- The splint is to be worn _____.
- If you are experiencing significant pain and feel that the bandage is too tight, you may gently loosen the operative dressing by unwrapping and rewrapping the outside ACE bandage at any given time. Please do not remove the underlying white fluffy gauze.
- Keep your dressing/splint clean and dry until your first follow-up visit. If you wish to shower, plastic bags, saran wrap, and waterproof dressings can all be used to keep the area dry.

Medication

- You have been prescribed one of the following **pain medications**:
 - Vicodin – Please take 1 tabs every 4-6 hours as needed for pain.

- Post-operative pain tends to be the most pronounced the first 2-3 days following surgery. Once the pain allows you to do so, transition to over the counter pain medications such as Tylenol as they have significantly less side-effects compared to narcotic pain medication.
- You may also use over the counter anti-inflammatories such as Advil or Aleve as needed for the first few weeks following surgery for any additional pain.
- If you have any side effects (i.e. Nausea, rash, trouble breathing) from medication discontinue its use and call our office.

Follow Up

- You have likely already been scheduled for your first post-operative visit. If you have not received an appointment please contact the office to schedule an appointment _____ days after your surgery.
- In addition, you will likely be scheduled to see a local hand therapist who will help assist with your early post-operative progression. Dr. Willis will give you further instruction as to when he would like for you to be seen.
- You will be seen by Dr. Willis or his Physician Assistant for your first post-operative visit to review your intra-operative findings and to go over any questions you may have.
- Sutures will also be removed at that time.
- Call the office immediately if you develop a fever (>101.5), chills, excessive incision drainage, calf pain, or persistent hand numbness.
- If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the office.