



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

LATERAL TIBIAL PLATEAU ORIF

Activity

- Try and rest the first few days following surgery. When sitting or lying down be sure to keep your leg elevated up above the level of your heart to help decrease swelling.
- **Ice** or the **cryo-cuff** can be used as much as possible for the first 3-4 weeks to help decrease swelling.
- **Crutches** are recommended for the first month (and occasionally longer) to help provide support and aid in ambulation. Try and avoid putting any weight on the operative leg until you are seen by Dr. Montgomery.
- You have been placed in a **knee immobilizer**. You will likely have to wear this for the first 4-6 weeks following surgery. The immobilizer needs to be locked (straight) in extension when standing or walking. The immobilizer also must be worn while sleeping at night. You may remove your brace 4-5 times a day while seated or lying down, and begin to bend and straighten your knee.
- A **continuous passive motion (CPM) machine** may be utilized for the first couple of weeks following surgery to facilitate early motion. You can use the machine *with or without* your knee immobilizer. Be sure to unlock the knee immobilizer if you choose to use the machine with the brace. Your goal should be able to achieve _____.
- Return to (sedentary) work or school the day after surgery if pain is tolerable. Return to heavy labor or excessive ambulatory activities will be determined by Dr. Montgomery.

Dressings

- Remove the outer dressing and gauze wrap 48-72 hours after surgery. Clean the surrounding skin with sterile water or rubbing alcohol and cover the sutures loosely with band-aids or a clean dressing. Be sure not vigorously rub over any of the incision sites as they are still healing.
- Small amounts of bloody drainage, numbness at incision site, knee swelling, and bruising are normal findings following surgery.
- Do not use bacitracin or any ointments under band-aids.

- If there are small white tape strips that have been placed across your incision, do not remove them.
- Keep your sutures 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. **DO NOT SOAK** your knee in a bath tub.

Medication

- You have been prescribed one of the following **pain medications**:
 - Oxycodone – Please take 1 tab every 4-6 hours as needed for pain.
 - Ultram – Please take 1 tab every 6 hours as needed for breakthrough pain
- As the pain gradually improves you may transition over to Extra-Strength Tylenol which is a strong non-narcotic alternative for pain.
- You have also been given a prescription for **enteric coated Aspirin 325 mg** which you should take twice daily with food to decrease the risk of post-operative blood clot formation.
- If you have any side effects (i.e. Nausea, rash, trouble breathing) from medication discontinue its use and call our office.

Physical Therapy

- Schedule Physical Therapy to begin approximately one week after surgery. You will receive your physical therapy prescription at your first post-operative visit.

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 10-14 days after your surgery.
- You will be seen by Dr. Montgomery 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 lower extremity numbness.
- If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the office.