



# *Post Operative Instructions: Irrigation and Debridement*

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## **DRESSING & INCISIONS**

- A small amount of red-tinged drainage on the dressing during the first 2 days is normal.
  - Keep the dressing clean and dry; protect it while bathing or showering.
  - Remove the dressing 4 days after surgery.
  - You may apply Band-Aids to the incisions or leave them open to air.
  - Do not apply Bacitracin or other ointments.
  - Avoid soaking in pools, lakes, hot tubs, or the ocean until sutures are removed and the incision is fully healed.
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## **PAIN & INFLAMMATION**

### Ice

- Apply ice wrapped in a dry towel 20 minutes at a time, several times per day for the first week, then as needed.

### Compression

- Use an ACE wrap to reduce swelling.

### Elevation

- Keep your body part elevated above heart level as much as possible for the first 3–4 days.

### Pain Medications

- Take your prescribed medications as directed.

#### Tylenol (Acetaminophen)

- First-line for pain.
- Take 1000 mg every 6–8 hours.
- Do not exceed 1000 mg per dose or 4000 mg per day (limit to 3000 mg/day if you have liver issues).
- Do not drink alcohol while taking Tylenol.

#### Methocarbamol

- Helps with pain and muscle spasms.
- Take every 6 hours as needed.

#### Oxycodone

- For moderate to severe breakthrough pain only.
- Use sparingly and wean off as soon as possible.

### Common side effects include:

- Nausea: Take with food.
  - Drowsiness: Do not drive or operate machinery.
  - Itching: Benadryl may help.
  - Constipation:
    - Use stool softeners (e.g., Senna-Docusate) or OTC options (Mineral Oil, Milk of Magnesia, etc).
    - Avoid bananas, rice, apples, toast, and yogurt (may worsen constipation).
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- Light walking helps stimulate bowel function.

Refills:

- If you think you will need a refill, you must request it during regular weekday office hours.
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**DVT PROPHYLAXIS**

- Take Aspirin 162 mg daily as prescribed.
    - This is not for pain—it's to reduce the risk of blood clots (DVT/pulmonary embolism).
    - If you are at higher risk, you may be placed on Lovenox instead. If you are already on anticoagulation, you may have a different plan.
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**EMERGENCIES**

You must have someone stay with you during the first 48 hours after surgery.

Call the clinic or the on-call orthopedist if:

- Drainage soaks the dressing, increases, smells foul, or if incisions become red, warm, or very painful.
  - You develop a fever >101.5°F or chills.
  - You experience leg or calf pain, swelling, or difficulty breathing.
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**FOLLOW-UP CARE**

- Schedule a follow-up appointment at ~2 weeks postoperatively for a wound check, suture removal, and review of your surgery (if not already scheduled).
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