



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: ARTHROSCOPIC SHOULDER STABILIZATION

ACTIVITY/SLING

- Please keep a sling on. You may remove it only 2-3 times a day to bend your elbow and wrist (as noted below).
- **You may not reach out (forward or to the side), up or behind you. Please keep your elbow tucked into your side.**
- **You may not push, pull, lift, carry, or climb.**

DRESSINGS & INCISIONS

- The first two days after surgery you can expect a small amount of red-tinged drainage on your dressings. This is normal.
- Please keep the dressing clean and dry; if you are going to shower/bathe, you must protect the dressing. You may not swim in a pool, lake, hot tub, or the ocean until the sutures have been removed.
- You may remove the dressing 4 days after surgery (white foam tape, white gauze pads, yellow gauze tape). **You may shower after dressings have been removed**
- You may apply Band Aids® over the incisions.
- Please do not use Bacitracin® or other ointments on the incisions.

PAIN & INFLAMMATION

- **Ice** - Apply ice bags wrapped in a dry towel several times per day for 20 minutes for the first week and then as needed for pain relief and inflammation.
- **Pain Medication**- You have been given a prescription for pain control; please take as directed.
 - If you think you will require a refill on your medication, you **MUST** do so during our regular **weekday** office hours.
 - If you need additional pain medication you may take Tylenol 500-650mg every 4-6 hours. Do not take more than 3grams or 3000mg in a 24 hour period!
 - Common side effects of the pain medication are:
 - **NAUSEA:** To decrease nausea, take these medications with food.
 - **DROWSINESS:** Do not drive a car or operate machinery.
 - **ITCHING:** You may take Benadryl to alleviate any itching.
 - **CONSTIPATION:** To decrease constipation, use the stool softener provided (Docusate 250mg) or over-the-counter remedies (Mineral Oil, Milk of Magnesia, etc). Also avoid bananas, rice, apples, toast, or yogurt...as these foods can make you constipated. Getting up and moving around also helps with constipation and "waking up" your intestinal tract.
- Anti-inflammatory medications (Aleve, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, etc.) should **not** be taken for 2 weeks after surgery.

EMERGENCIES

- Please have someone stay with you for the first 24 hours after surgery
- Please call the clinic or the orthopaedist on-call if:
 - Drainage from the incision soaks the dressings, expands, is foul-smelling; or your incisions are red, warm, and extremely painful
 - You develop a fever (>101.5°) or chills.
 - You experience leg or calf pain, leg swelling, or difficulty breathing.

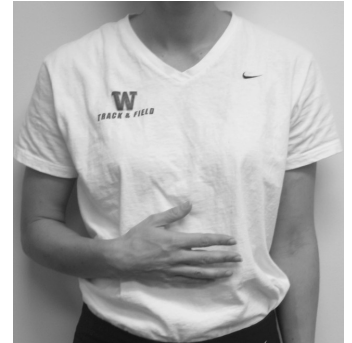
FOLLOW-UP CARE

- Please **schedule a follow-up appointment** for suture removal, x-rays, and to review your surgery 7-10 days postoperatively.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL THE OFFICE (760)924-4084.

EXERCISES

- **Elbow Flexion** (when you are comfortable and ready you may perform 1-2 sets of 10, 1-2 times a day):
 - Keep your arm close to your body.
 - Bend your elbow and bring your hand up towards your stomach, keep working your hand up towards your heart and then your neck so that your elbow bends as far as it can.
 - Slowly lower your hand down towards your side.
 - Repeat



- **Grip strengthening:** With the arm in the sling, grip a rubber ball, old tennis ball, or beanbag. Hold for 5 seconds and release.