



PALM BEACH ORTHOPAEDIC INSTITUTE, P.A.

JAMES M. KERPSACK, M.D.

ACL RECONSTRUCTION POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) We have numbed your knee with a long acting anesthetic, which will wear off in 12-24 hours. Therefore, a moderate increase in pain may be anticipated. Start taking your pain medication before that time.
- 2) The pain will be decreasing after a few days. Do not hesitate to use adequate amounts of prescribed pain medication. When taking pain medications you may experience nausea, drowsiness, mild itching or lightheadedness. **Do not drive or operate heavy machinery.** A stool softener may be used for constipation.
- 3) To reduce pain and swelling use the Cryo-Cuff or Polar Care as directed and elevate your knee above the level of your heart for the first few days after surgery. It is normal for your ankle/foot to be swollen and should improve with elevating the leg. If swelling does not improve, please call the office.
- 4) You may remove your bandages in **48 hours**, but do not remove the steri-strips (small thin pieces of tape). Cover each small incision with a band aid, keeping them clean and dry.
- 5) You may shower in 48 hours but **do not submerge the knee in a bathtub, ocean or hot tub for at least 10 days as this may lead to infection.** It is ok to let the incision get wet with regular bathing and showering.
- 6) You may walk as tolerated. You will be given crutches. You may use them for comfort, but this is not required.
- 7) The brace you were given is for comfort. It is locked straight initially and will help you get around the first few days. You may unlock it and allow for motion as soon as you are comfortable. Stop using it when you feel you can walk without it.
- 8) Bend and straighten your leg as much as you can tolerate several times a day. This will help to prevent stiffness.
- 9) At least 10 straight leg raises need to be done every hour while awake. Also, do range of motion exercises with your foot and ankle.
- 10) If pain medicine is not controlling your pain take the following steps: 1. Remove the Ace wrap then tear apart the white cotton material so nothing is going all the way around the leg. 2. Be sure to elevate your leg. 3. Use the Cryo-Cuff.
- 11) **If you are 19 years old or older: If you are not allergic to aspirin and do not have a history of stomach ulcers, one adult (325mg) buffered aspirin should be taken twice per day for 10 days after surgery.**

*Contact our office directly at **(561) 727-1309** if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Increased redness, warmth, hardness around operative site
- Increasing and progressive drainage from the surgical area
- Fever of 101.4 or greater
- Persistent pain not relieved by medication
- Sudden onset of numbness, tingling, or discolored toes
- Inability to urinate within 8 hours following the procedure

***After Hours:** For any urgent questions or concerns after office hours, please call the main office phone at (561) 694-7776 and the answering service will contact Dr. Kerpsack.

***In case of an emergency, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911**

(561) 694-7776 | www.pboi.com

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