



Orthopedic Surgery • Sports Medicine
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Post-Operative Instructions – Hip Arthroscopy

Bandages & Ace Wrap:

Your post-operative dressing has two layers. First, your incisions were closed with stitches and covered with small white tapes called Steri-Strips. Your Steri-Strips should be left in place until your sutures are removed about 2 weeks after surgery.

The second layer is a white padded dressing that is taped on your hip. Since arthroscopy is performed with water, this second layer can absorb some water that will leak from your hip for the first couple hours after surgery. Occasionally, there will also be a small amount of blood mixed with this water, which is nothing to worry about.

We will remove the dressings and replace them with fresh new ones a few days after surgery. Once your dressings are removed in the office, you do not have to cover your hip unless the skin is irritated by your clothes or if you will be in the sun for long periods of time. Your skin will be extra sensitive to the sun until fully healed so take extra precaution.

Ice, Elevation & Cryo-Cuff:

The best way to minimize swelling after surgery is with the frequent application of ice and elevating the leg. The ice pack should be large (like a big zip-lock bag) and held firmly around the side of the hip. It is still important to keep the entire leg elevated on a couple of pillows. We follow the "one to four" rule - for every hour your leg is down (like sitting in a chair or walking) it takes four hours to reverse the swelling. Use ice for 20 to 30 minutes every 1-2 hours for the first 3 to 4 days. Also, use it after physical therapy or times of increased activity for the next several weeks.

Washing & Bathing:

You will be seen in the office a few days after surgery. Until this time, keep the dressings clean and dry to avoid issues with incision healing. You may bathe by covering the dressing. Once your dressings are changed in the office, you can shower without covering your hip. You can use soap on your leg and over the Steri-Strips. This shower should be quick. Do not take a bath or use a swimming pool until 1 month after surgery. Because lake and ocean water contain bacteria, avoid these for 6 weeks after surgery.

The yellow discoloration you will find on your leg is a long lasting surgical prep called ChlorPrep. This is used because it will kill bacteria on your skin hours longer than old fashion iodine surgical preps. This yellow discoloration will not come off with soap and water, instead

you will need rubbing alcohol to remove it. This should be avoided until your first office visit unless it is causing your leg to itch, then it can be removed sooner.

Walking & Crutches:

Your physical therapist will give you instructions regarding how to use your crutches safely and weight-bearing restrictions. Almost all patients are off crutches within 1 to 2 weeks, depending on your surgery.

Physical Therapy

You can start the rehabilitation process right away. At your first appointment, your therapist will teach you exercises that will be important to do regularly right after surgery. Regular physical therapy will begin before your first office visit, and you will start range of motion, gait, and strength exercises on your first visit.

Follow up appointment:

I want to see my patients in the office 3 to 4 days after surgery. Sometimes I find other issues with your hip that we did not anticipate. When these unforeseen circumstances occur, I may want to see you in the office sooner than originally planned.

Pain Medications:

I will usually prescribe multiple medications for the control of your post-operative pain. Please read the Surgical Pain Medicine Guide to help understand your post-surgical pain medications. During surgery, I will often inject a painkiller, like novocaine, that will give some pain relief for several hours after surgery. It is important to begin to take your pain pills before this medicine wears off.

Oxycodone is a strong narcotic pain medication. It will begin to work within 15 minutes after taking it with a maximal effect in one to two hours. Narcotic medications like Oxycodone can cause nausea or an episode of vomiting. Take the medicine with a little food, start with just one pill, and be patient while the medicine begins to work. Usually, after the first few doses, the nausea goes away. If you take a full dose of this medication for more than 4 or 5 days it can lead to constipation. Normally, Oxycodone is taken every 6 hours but if the pain is severe, it can be used every 4 hours. Remember, narcotic pain medications do have addiction potential with prolonged use.

DVT Prophylaxis – Prevention of Blood clot following surgery:

The risk of a leg blood clot following minor surgery is very rare. The majority of patients that suffer this complication usually have a prior history of a blood clot, a positive family history of DVT, or other unusual risk factors. The medical literature is unclear what method of prevention is best and you will find that each surgeon does this a little different.

- Take one 81mg aspirin every day for 30 days
- Take one 325mg aspirin every day for 30 days
- Take one 325mg aspirin twice a day for 30 days

HO Prophylaxis – Prevention of extra bone formation following surgery:

After hip arthroscopy, there is a risk of extra bone formation, called heterotopic ossification (HO). I will prescribe an anti-inflammatory called Indomethacin to help lower this risk. This medication is taken 3 times per day for 4 weeks and should be taken with food. Some patients may have stomach irritation. If you develop stomach pain or pain with eating, you should let our office know immediately and stop this medication.

What to watch out for:

- Pain that is increasing every hour in spite of the pain medication
- Pain or swelling in your calf
- Fever greater than 101°
- Increasing pain with walking
- Unable to keep food or water down for more than one day

Who to Call for Questions and Problems:

If you are having problems or have questions, please call our office at 813-684-3707 (Brandon/Riverview office) or 813-633-0286 (Sun City office) and our nurse will help you. We realize the after surgery some problems or questions are urgent and can not wait until normal working hours. Under these circumstances please call 813-684-3707 anytime (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and the doctor on-call or I will return your call. If you do not receive an answer within 20 minutes there may be a problem with the beeper so please call again. If an emergency were to occur you can always go straight to the emergency room for immediate attention.

Driving:

You can resume driving after surgery as long as you meet the following precautions. First, you must be weight bearing as tolerated with or without crutches. This ensures that, in the case of an emergency, you can remove yourself from the car safely. Second, you have stopped taking the narcotic pain medication. Third, you should not drive until the pain in the hip has decreased to a tolerable level and the hip has up to 90 degrees of motion. The first time you drive, test your skill in an empty parking lot with another passenger.