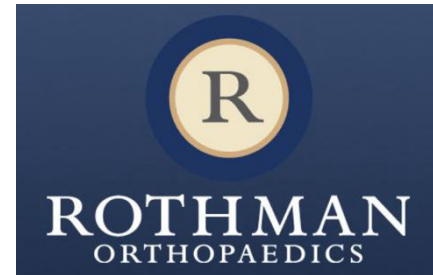


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## Elbow Arthroscopy Discharge Instructions

### PAIN MANAGEMENT

- **INTERSCALENE NERVE BLOCK** - A combination of local anesthetics are used to numb your shoulder and arm so your brain will not receive any pain signals during and immediately after surgery. The length of effect varies from person to person, but the block usually provides 8-12 hours of pain relief. You will notice a gradual increase in pain as this begins to wear off at which time you can increase the frequency of the oral pain medications as needed.
- **ORAL PAIN MEDICATIONS**
  - Tylenol 325 mg
    - Start by taking one tablet every four to six hours when you arrive home after surgery so you have some medication on board when the block wears off. You should take this on a regular schedule for the first few days after surgery
  - Naproxen 500 mg
    - Take 1 tablet twice per day to help with pain and inflammation. You will take this for 2 weeks.
  - Tramadol 50 mg
    - This is a non-narcotic pain medication used in conjunction with the Norco. You should take this medication every evening 4-6 hours as needed for pain, beginning tonight.
  - Oxycodone 5 mg
    - This is a narcotic medication. Start by taking one tablet every four to six hours if the Tylenol and tramadol are not controlling your pain. You may take one to two tablets every four to six hours as needed for pain.

SIDE EFFECTS OF THESE MEDICATIONS INCLUDE DROWSINESS AND CONSTIPATION. **YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE OR DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE TAKING THESE PAIN MEDICATIONS.**

- **OTHER MEDICATIONS**
  - Zofran (ondansetron) 4mg
    - This is a nausea medication that is only taken if you feel nauseous.
  - Pantoprazole/Omeprazole 40mg
    - This medication is to protect your stomach while you are on the Naproxen
- **ICE MACHINE**
  - Recommend using **1 hour on, 1 hour off for the first 2 days after surgery while awake**
  - Do not place pad directly on skin – make sure there is a barrier such as a t-shirt or towel

- After the first 2 days you may use the ice machine as needed for comfort
- If you did not opt for the ice machine, you may use ice packs on the surgical area for 20-30 minutes every 1-2 hours

## **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS**

### **● SLING: until post-operative appointment**

- You will need to wear the sling at all times (during the day and at night). You may remove it to shower, get dressed, and do your exercises/physical therapy. When the sling is off you may let your arm hang straight down at the side.
- You can adjust the straps on the sling as needed for comfort. Be sure that your arm is well-supported and your forearm is parallel to the floor.
- **We recommend that you DO NOT drive during the period of time your arm is in the sling**

## **WOUND CARE & BATHING**

### **● BANDAGE**

- You have a large, bulky bandage on your elbow that you may remove **3 days** after your surgery. Simply peel off all of the tape and underlying gauze.
- After the dressing is removed, you will see that the incisions that are closed with sutures. Simply cover these with bandaids after showering. These do not need to be covered in the shower.
- Keep the incisions clean and dry – do not put any alcohol, lotion, or ointment on the incisions for 6 weeks.

### **● BATHING**

- You can shower once the initial dressing is removed (3 days post-op). However, the incisions need to stay dry and covered and in the shower until the sutures are removed at 10-14 days post-op. Waterproof bandages work very well for this.
- Do not submerge the incisions in a bath, pool, or hot tub until the sutures are removed **and** the wound is healed.

### **● SUTURE REMOVAL**

- Stitches will need to be removed in **10-14 days**. Please contact our office to make an appointment for this if you have not already done so.
- We prefer that you return to our office to have your sutures removed. If you live a great distance away and are unable to do so, you may have a local physician remove your sutures.
  - If you choose to do this:
    - **You must first contact that physician to confirm that they are willing and able to do so.**

### **● Keep an eye on your incisions for signs of infection:**

- Excessive drainage that is soaking through your dressing, especially if it is pus-like
- Redness that is spreading out from the edges of your incision
- Fever or increased warmth around the surgical area

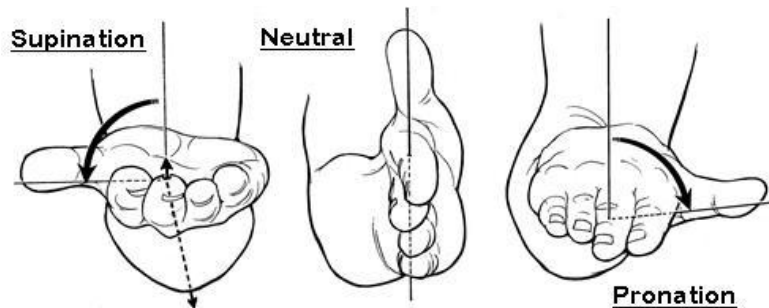
## **Other Information**

- Normal sensations after surgery
  - Pain
  - Swelling and warmth up to 2 weeks
  - Small amounts of bloody drainage for first few days
  - Numbness around the incision area
  - Bruising
  - Low grade temperature less than 101.0 for up to 2 days after surgery.
  - Small amount of redness to the area where the sutures insert in the skin

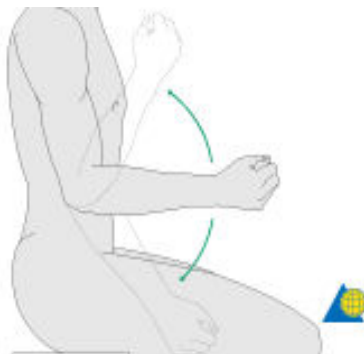
- **IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR, CONTACT THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY**
  - o Change is noted to your incision (i.e. increased redness or drainage)
  - o Temperature greater than 101.0
  - o Fever, chills, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
  - o Sutures become loose or fall out and incision becomes open
  - o Drainage becomes yellow, puss like or foul smelling
  - o Increased pain unrelieved by medication or measures mentioned above.
- Post-op visit
  - o Schedule for 10-14 days post-op. Please arrive 30 minutes early for x-rays.

## **PHYSICAL THERAPY**

- **You may schedule your first physical therapy visit for 7-10 days after surgery. Your physical therapy order, which you should hand-carry to your first visit, is attached to the back of this packet.**
  - o Physical therapy can be done at the facility of your choice.
- You may begin the home exercises listed below **tomorrow**. You can remove your sling to perform these exercises.
  - o **SUPINATION AND PRONATION** (10-15 repetitions per set | 2 sets | 3 times daily)
    - With elbow at your side, alternate turning your palm upward (supination) and downward (pronation).



- o **FLEXION AND EXTENSION** (10-15 repetitions per set | 2 sets | 3 times daily)
  - Remove sling and allow arm to rest at your side (you may perform this sitting or standing). Allow your arm to straighten at the side, then gently bend elbow up. Position forearm with thumb facing up.



○ **HAND AND WRIST EXERCISES** (10-15 repetitions per set | 2 sets | 3 times daily)

- \_\_\_ With your arm comfortably supported, gently bend wrist back and forth.
- \_\_\_ Curl the fingers into the palm to make a loose fist and then straighten them out.

