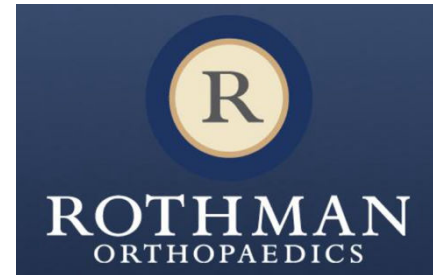


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Rotator Cuff Repair Discharge Instructions

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: 3 weeks

- 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 and Incision Care
 - Please keep the dressing on for the first 3 days. You may then remove the tape and gauze. Underneath will be incisions closed with sutures. These will remain in until your postoperative appointment. After you shower, simply cover these bandages with bandaids. These should be replaced daily.
 - There may also be a tan bandage or clear plastic bandage in your arm pit. Leave this in place until your first postoperative appointment.
 - Do not apply creams, ointment or lotions to your incisions for at least 3 weeks.
- Showering
 - You may shower after you have removed the tape and gauze. If you want to shower beforehand, place saran wrap over the bandage or a bag over your shoulder.
- 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

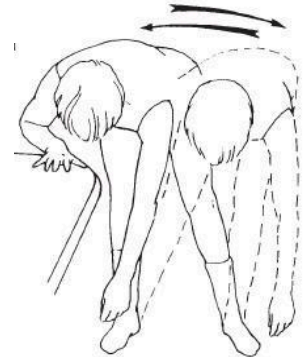
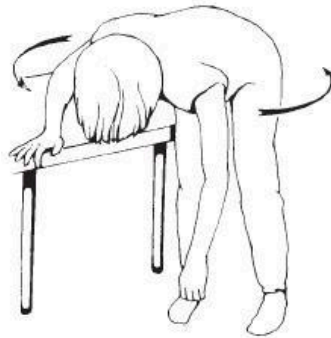
CONTACTING OUR OFFICE

- When to contact our office immediately:
 - Fever > 101.5°F
 - Excessive bleeding from incision(s)
 - Signs of infection of incision(s)
 - Excruciating pain for which the pain medication is not helping

PHYSICAL THERAPY

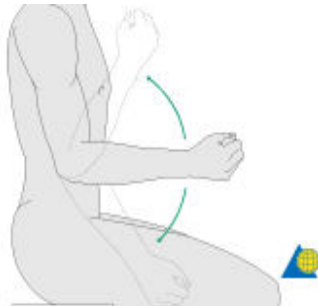
- You may schedule your first physical therapy visit 4 weeks after surgery. Your physical therapy order, which you should hand-carry to your first visit, is attached to the back of this packet.
 - Physical therapy can be done at the facility of your choice.
- You may begin the home exercises listed below tomorrow. You can remove your sling to perform these exercises.
 - PENDULUM EXERCISES (10-15 repetitions per set | 2 sets | 3 times daily)

- Bend forward at the waist using a table for support. Rock body in a circular pattern to move arm clockwise 10-15 times per set. Do 2 sets 3 times per day. Repeat rocking body from side to side and let arm swing freely.



○ **ELBOW MOTION** (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.

