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Patient Instructions for Patellofemoral Reconstruction Surgery

Upon discharge from The Surgery Center you will have a dressing over your knee. You may be given crutches to help with walking. Your prescriptions for pain medication should have been given to you at your last office visit before surgery.

Wound Care Instructions:

1. Leave wound dressing in place unless the dressing becomes wet or damp with drainage.
2. Keep the Aquaseal dressing in place for 7 days then remove. Do not apply any ointments or lotions to the wounds.
3. Keep the wound dry. You may shower with the Aquaseal dressing in place but do not soak the wound under water in a bath, spa or pool for 6 weeks.
4. Expect leg swelling. Ice and elevation are the solution: Apply cold therapy using polar care ice unit or gel ice pad held on your knee with an ace bandage. Always have a cloth between the skin and ice pad, to prevent an "ice burn". Be careful not to wrap the ace bandage overly tight. Check skin hourly for frostbite. If using a cryocuff you may use it for hours at a time as long as you check skin hourly.
5. If you develop any signs of infection call the office immediately.
6. Elevate the leg with a pillow under the calf/ heel, not under the knee to reduce swelling.

ACTIVITY:

1. You can bear weight as tolerated. Ambulate in the knee immobilizer with crutches. Wean from the crutches as tolerated. Discard the crutches one at a time.
2. You may move your knee through as much motion as tolerates. If you have a CPM (passive motion) machine begin motion from 0-90 degrees, advance as tolerates.
3. Physical Therapy referral will be provided at your post op appointment unless it has already been approved. The therapist will guide you through a rehab program to include edema control, pain control, range of motion and progressive strengthening exercises.

MEDICATIONS:

There is a very small risk of a blood clot following knee surgery. We suggested you take an Aspirin 81 mg once daily for 14 days to reduce this risk.

Please take pain medications as directed. Do Not wait until the pain is severe to take medication. Medications may take between 30-60 minutes to begin working so take medication as directed.

Follow all instructions on the labels and it is best to take all pain medication with food to prevent stomach upset, **DO NOT DRIVE WHILE TAKING PAIN MEDICATIONS** as dizziness and sleepiness are frequent side effects of pain medication.

You might feel drowsy for the first 24 - 48 hours following surgery if you have had a general anesthetic or sedation.

Therefore, for the first 24 hours (or longer if drowsiness persists) you **SHOULD NOT:**

- Drive a car, operate machinery or power tools
- Drink any alcoholic beverages
- Make important decisions or sign important papers

We recommend that you have a responsible adult with you for the rest of the day and during the night, and longer if drowsiness persists. This is for your safety and protection.

Please consult with your Primary Care Physician any questions regarding your regular home medications.

FOLLOW UP Appointment Dr. Peatman's office in 7-10 days.

If you have a problem please call Surgery Scheduling (925) 362-2179, after hours (800) 943-8009

Please Call the Office If:

1. You develop a fever > 101 F
2. If the incision becomes very red, warm to touch, develops drainage
3. If you develop significant pain, swelling or numbness
4. If your pain is not relieved by medication.
5. If the pain medication does not agree with you.
6. If you have significant bleeding or drainage from surgical site.

Please Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department if you feel Chest Pain or Shortness of Breath