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POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - OPEN PECTORALIS MAJOR REPAIR

SLING/MOVEMENT

For the first 4 weeks after surgery, you must **always wear your sling including while you are asleep**. You may only remove the sling to shower and to perform range of motion exercises for your elbow and wrist.

You should flex and extend your elbow 3 to 4 times a day to prevent stiffness. Do not move your elbow away from your body as this may damage the repair.

ICE

An ice machine will be provided to you for after surgery. This will help decrease swelling and pain after your surgery. Use the ice machine as much as possible when you get home at intervals of 20 minutes on and off. You should keep the ice machine for approximately two weeks. Do not use the ice machine while you are sleeping. If you did not receive an ice machine – you should use ice packs over the surgical site regularly.

MEDICATIONS

Nearly all patients will receive a nerve block for anesthesia, it will wear off over 18-24 hours. During this time, you will have little to no feeling in the body part where you had surgery (i.e. the arm). To control your pain during this transition while the nerve block is wearing off, you are to eat first and then begin taking the **pain medication** (Percocet, Norco). The pain medication can be taken 1-2 pills every 4-6 hours. Pain medication can cause constipation, you may take miralax once a day over the counter. You may also take Colace 100mg 1-2x/day. You can supplement your pain medication with an anti-inflammatory (e.g. Advil, Aleve, etc.) – this will help you wean from the narcotic pain medication.

A **sleeping medication** (e.g. Ambien or Benadryl) is also provided to help you sleep at night. Take one tablet 15-30 minutes before you plan to sleep.

DRESSING/BANDAGES

Keep your surgical dressing clean and dry. Do not remove the dressing until your follow-up visit. A waterproof dressing has been applied, you may take a shower, however you should avoid submerging the dressing in water.

TEMPERATURE

It is normal to have an elevated temperature during the first 2-3 days post-operatively. Please call our office if your temperature is above 101°F, if there is increased redness around the incision sites, or if there is increased drainage from the incisions.

APPOINTMENT

It is likely that our practice coordinator has already scheduled a post-operative visit for you. This should occur 7-10 days after surgery. At that visit your sutures will be removed, and you will be given a prescription for physical therapy.

If you need anything, the easiest way to us is to call 818-703-3333 or utilize the “Contact Us” tab on laorthos.com.