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POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS – ORIF PATELLA

BRACE/MOVEMENT

It is safe to put weight on the surgical leg if your brace is locked straight. Use your crutches for stability. Always wear the brace, including while sleeping. Do not go for long walks or stand on your feet for extended periods of time, this can lead to increased pain and swelling.

ICE

An ice machine will be provided to you for after surgery. This will help decrease swelling and pain. 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 throughout the day.

In addition to icing your knee, elevate your knee so that your toes are above your nose. This can help to reduce swelling.

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 leg). To control your pain during the 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. 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.

Please take 81mg of Aspirin daily for 30 days after surgery, this reduces the risk of sustaining a DVT (blood clot).

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 your dressing until your first post-op visit. You should take a shower with a plastic bag over your leg to keep the dressing clean and dry.

Do not take a bath or submerge your knee in water until your incisions are checked at your first post-operative visit.

DRIVING

You may drive 1-2 weeks after surgery if you are not taking pain medication. If your right leg is the operative side, then you must have good control of your leg prior to driving.

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 incisions, 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 have any difficulty using anti-inflammatory medications or aspirin or have a history of peptic ulcer disease, please let us know.

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