

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - MENISCECTOMY

❖ MOVEMENT

You can walk and bend your knee as much as tolerated. Use crutches as needed for the first few days. Limit standing and walking based on swelling and pain. Perform **straight-leg raise exercises** to help with quad strength.

❖ ICE / ELEVATE

Use ice to help decrease swelling and pain after your surgery. May use at intervals of 20 minutes ON with at least 30 minutes OFF. Do not use ice while you are sleeping. If you received an ice machine, you can use 30 minutes at a time. You should keep the ice machine for approximately two weeks.

In addition, elevate your leg, toes above your nose. This will help reduce swelling.

❖ MEDICATIONS

If you were given 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. If an injection of local anesthesia was injected into your wound, this will wear off in 5-6 hours. Therefore, begin taking the **pain medication** (e.g. Tramadol, Norco, Percocet) when you begin to have pain to prevent you from having severe pain. Take the pain medication as needed, every 4-6 hours. Take a **stool softener** until you are having normal bowel movements. If you are given a prescription for **Aspirin** to help thin your blood and prevent blood clots, take as directed.

The day after surgery you can take 600 mg of **Ibuprofen** (Advil/Motrin) every 6 hours to help with inflammation and pain. This will help cut down the use of narcotic-based pain medication.

❖ DRESSING / BANDAGES

Keep your dressing clean and dry. You may remove the dressing 3 days after surgery and replace with waterproof band-aids. Your stitches will likely be dissolvable and under the skin; leave the steri-strips in place, they will fall off after about a week. It is okay to shower and let your incisions get wet 3 days after surgery. Until then, wrap with plastic to shower. No submerging in bathtub or hot tub for 2 weeks.

❖ DRIVING

You may drive 3 to 5 days 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.

❖ APPOINTMENT

Your first post-op visit will be at 7-10 days. You can begin physical therapy at 3-5 days post-op.