

Post-Operative Instructions for Hand & Elbow Surgery

Oregon Medical Group Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic

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Phone: 541-242-4812

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Call our office if you have any of the following:

- Fever over 101 degrees.
- Yellow, green or foul smelling drainage
- A large red area around the incisions.
- You suspect an allergic reaction to medications or dressing materials. This could be shortness of breath, a rash or redness, hives, etc.

Dressings/Bandages: *(follow instructions according to which box is checked)*

- Your dressing and splint applied in the operating room should remain on, dry, and intact until your follow-up visit.
- Your dressing and splint applied in the operating room should remain on, dry, and intact for 3 days following surgery. You may shower, but keep the dressing dry by covering the area with a plastic bag. Following removal of the dressing, place a band-aid over the incision. You may shower and let water run over the incision, but do not soak the area in a bath or swimming pool until the wounds have completely healed, usually 2-3 weeks after surgery.
- Other: _____

Medication:

- Take your regular medications as prescribed.
- You have been given a prescription for pain medication. Please take according to the instructions. If your pain becomes too severe, don't try to "tough it out". Call our office if you have severe pain that doesn't respond to pain medication.
- **Some pain medications contain Tylenol. DO NOT take additional Tylenol without discussing with your surgeon. This can lead to liver failure.**
- **Do not drive or drink alcohol while you are on narcotic pain medication.**
- Sometimes pain medication causes nausea. If this is severe and doesn't go away, call our office.
- Pain medication can cause constipation. Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice. Take milk of magnesia if you become constipated, or use a stool softener such as Dulcolax.

Activity:

- Minimize activity on the day of surgery.
- If you have received anesthesia, do not make important decisions or sign legal documents. You should be in the care of a responsible adult for the first 1-2 days.
- Elevate hand to reduce swelling.
- Apply ice to reduce swelling. Do NOT use heat.
- Avoid lifting, pushing, or pulling objects for the first 10-14 days. Do not use exercise equipment until your doctor allows you to do so.

Move fingers frequently

Ok to use hand/wrist as tolerated.

Other: _____

Diet:

- Resume your regular diet. Drink plenty of fluids, but stay away from alcoholic and caffeinated fluids. Try to stay away from smoking.

Your Post-op Appointment:

- Should be scheduled for 10-14 days after surgery. Call 541-242-4812 if you don't have a post-op appointment date and time. Your sutures will be removed at this visit.

Special Instructions:
