



Post-Operative Instructions: Shoulder/Humerus Fracture Repair

Coming Home

- Wear your shoulder sling for support. While using the sling, it is important to loosen the sling and move your elbow for a few minutes, several times a day, to avoid elbow stiffness.
- It is important to move your fingers to minimize swelling and stiffness there. It is normal for swelling to accumulate in the hand/fingers after arm surgery.
- Avoid lifting more than 0.5 lb with the injured arm. Avoid any significant shoulder motion.

Dressings/Hygiene

- Keep your dressings dry and intact until 4 days after surgery, at which point they can be removed.
- At this point, most incisions will typically be dry and further dressings will not be required.
- If skin glue was used to seal your wound, it will fall off on its own over time. Do not scrub it off.
- You may shower once the initial dressings are removed. Until then, please perform sponge baths in order to avoid getting the dressings wet.
- If there is still some drainage from the surgical wounds, reapply sterile gauze squares and tape in place. Change daily until the wounds are dry.
- Once the dressings have been removed and the wounds are dry, it is safe to leave the wounds open to air.

Medications

- **Acetaminophen (Tylenol):** This medication helps with pain. It should be taken on a scheduled basis (1000 mg every 8 hours) for as long as needed.
- **Oxycodone / Tramadol / Hydrocodone:** These are narcotic medications that can be taken as needed for pain control. You should taper off and discontinue these medications as soon as you feel you no longer need them.
- **Meloxicam / Ibuprofen:** These are anti-inflammatory medications that help with pain and swelling. You should take the medication as prescribed on a scheduled basis at least until you are off narcotic pain medication. You may keep taking the anti-inflammatory for as long as it is required to manage your pain, but it should not be taken longer than necessary.
- **Gabapentin:** This medication helps diminish pain signals along the sensory nerves. If prescribed, it should be taken as prescribed on a scheduled basis at least until you are off narcotic pain medication. You may keep taking the gabapentin for as long as it is beneficial.
- **Aspirin / Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) / Enoxaparin (Lovenox):** You may have been prescribed one of these medications to help lower the risk of blood clots. If prescribed, it is important to take the full amount of medication. The over-the-counter aspirin dose is 325 mg daily for 30 days.

Follow-up and Contacts

- Your first post-operative visit has likely already been scheduled, typically in about 2 weeks.
- Physical therapy may be recommended. Dr. Gross will review this with you at your follow-up visit.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call:

Laura Cook, MA (303) 607-6348

Main Office (303) 449-2730