

## Post-Operative Instructions:

### Rotator Cuff Repair

#### Diet:

- Begin with clear liquids and light foods (jellos, soups, etc).
- Progress to your normal diet if you are not nauseated.

#### Wound Care:

- Maintain your operative dressing, loosen bandages if swelling of the elbow, wrist, or hands occurs.
- It is normal for your shoulder to bleed and swell from your surgery- if blood soaks through your bandage, do not become alarmed – reinforce with additional dressing.
- Remove your surgical dressing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> post-operative day- if minimal drainage is present, apply band-aids or clean dressing over the incisions and change daily
- To avoid infection, keep your incision clean and dry – you may shower by placing large waterproof Band Aids OR a large garbage bag over your sling, starting the day after surgery – NO immersion of the operative arm in water (i.e. bath)

#### Medications:

- A pain catheter was placed in your shoulder before your surgery – this can wean off in 8-12 hours or can last for a few days.
- Pain medications given act on different pain receptors – these should be taken as directed on the bottle starting the day of your surgery until they are gone, with one exception: Oxycodone should only be taken if the other medications are not relieving your pain.
- Primary Medications:
  - 1. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 1 g PO every 8 hours scheduled [Rx for 90 (500 mg) tablets]
  - 2. Tramadol (Ultram) 100 mg PO every 8 hours scheduled [Rx for 45 (50 mg) tablets]
  - 3. Meloxicam (Mobic) 15mg PO daily [Rx for 30 (15mg) tablets]
    - a. Alternative: Celecoxib1 (Celebrex) 200 mg PO every 12 hours scheduled [Rx for 30 (200mg) tablets]
  - 4. Gabapentin (Neurontin) 200mg every 8 hours [Rx for 45 (200mg) tablets]
    - a. Alternative: Pregabalin (Lyrica) 50 mg PO every 12 hours scheduled [Rx for 30 (50mg) tablets]

----- Take medications above as scheduled until they are gone-----

- 5. Oxycodone (OxyIR) 5 mg (1-2 pills) PO every 4 hours as needed (only as needed) [Rx for 30 (5mg) tablets] - Only take this medication if the other scheduled pain medications are not adequately controlling your pain.
- Common side effects of Oxycodone pain medication include nausea, drowsiness, constipation – to decrease these side effects, take with food – if constipation occurs, consider taking an over the counter laxative.
- If you are having a problem with nausea and vomiting please take one of your anti-nausea medications – Zofran. If still having issues please call our office for a possible medication change.

Robert A. Keller, M.D.  
1135 W University Dr #450  
Rochester, MI 48307  
(248) 650-2400  
KellerOrthopedics.com  
rkeller@DL-Ortho.com



**Activity:**

- When sleeping or resting, inclined positions (recliner chair), with pillows behind the shoulder or under the forearm for support may provide better comfort.
- Do not engage in activities which increase pain and swelling over the first 7-10 days after your surgery.
- Avoid long periods of sitting (without your arm supported) or long distance traveling for 2 weeks.
- No driving until instructed by Dr. Keller.
- May return to sedentary work ONLY or school in 3-4 days after surgery, if pain is tolerable.

**Shoulder Immobilizer**

- Your shoulder immobilizer should be worn at all times (day and night – except for exercises) until otherwise informed by the physician after first post-operative visit.

**Ice Therapy:**

- Begin immediately after surgery
- Use Ice every 2 hours for 20 minutes daily until your first post-operative visit – remember to keep leg elevated to the level of the chest when icing.

**Exercise:**

- Begin your elbow, wrist, and hand exercises 24 hours after your surgery.
- Formal physical therapy (PT) will begin after your first post-operative appointment.

**Emergencies:**

- Contact Dr. Keller if any are present:
  - Painful swelling or numbness
  - Unrelenting pain
  - Fever (>101) or chills. It is normal to have a low-grade fever after surgery.
  - Redness around the incision
  - Color change in the wrist or hand
  - Continuous draining/bleeding from the incision (small amounts are completely normal)
  - Difficulty Breathing
  - Excessive nausea.

\*\*\*If you have an emergency please contact Dr. Keller before going to a hospital or emergency room.

**Follow-up Care/Questions:**

- Please contact Katharyn Chernicky, Dr. Keller's assistant at 248-659-0190. OR email Dr. Keller at [RKeller@DL-Ortho.com](mailto:RKeller@DL-Ortho.com).
- If you do not already have a post-operative appointment, please call and schedule by calling 248-650-2400 and asking for appointment scheduling.