

Postoperative Instructions: Distal Biceps Repair

- **GENERAL**

- Your surgery was performed through an incision on the front of the elbow. You are placed in a splint that will not come off until you come for your first postoperative visit 7-10 days after surgery. The incision will usually cause a sharp pain at the front of the elbow. This will improve over the next several days.

- **DIET**

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

- **WOUND CARE**

- It is normal to notice some blood on your operative dressing following surgery – if blood soaks through the bandage, do not become alarmed – reinforce with additional dressing
- Do not remove any of the surgical dressings
- If you note increasing drainage on the gauze, increased redness around the wound (spreading), or milky drainage from the wound, please call the office
- You may shower the day after surgery; however, the arm must remain COMPLETELY DRY and covered

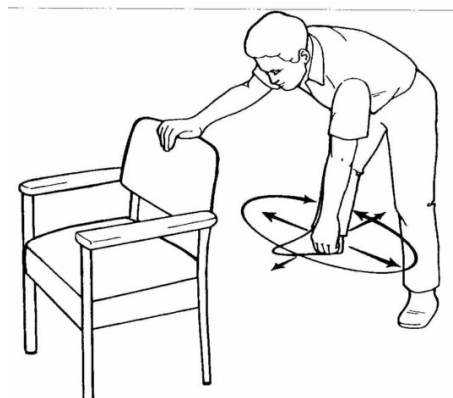
- **MEDICATIONS**

- The incisions are injected with a medication that makes the area numb; however, this will wear off in 8-12 hours. We recommend that you start pain medications when you get home so that they are on board before this wears off.
 - Along with this, typically patients receive a block that makes the entire arm numb. This also wears off in 8-12 hours and you will notice a difference in your pain control. Please start taking the Norco when you get home every 4 hours initially even if not in pain so this is in your system when the block wears off.
- Most patients will require some narcotic pain medication for a short period of time – this can be taken as per directions on the bottle and is given for a maximum of 6 weeks.

- Common side effects of the pain medication are nausea, drowsiness, and constipation – to decrease the side effects, take medication with food – if constipation occurs, consider taking an over-the-counter laxative
- If you are having problems with nausea and vomiting, try the Zofran prescribed and contact the office to possibly have your medication changed (312-432-2440)
- Do not drive a car or operate machinery while taking the narcotic medication
- Ibuprofen 200-400mg (i.e. Advil) may be taken in between the narcotic pain medication to provide baseline relief, reducing the overall amount of pain medication required, and increase the time intervals between narcotic pain medication usage
- We recommend all patients take 325mg of Aspirin daily starting the day after surgery for 3 weeks to help prevent blood clots.

● ACTIVITY

- Keep your arm in the sling at all times until the first postoperative visit except for performing the pendulum exercises seen to the right. Perform these exercises with the splint on
- NO driving until instructed otherwise by physician and no driving while taking narcotics
- May return to sedentary work ONLY or school 3-4 days after surgery, if pain is tolerable



● SLING

- Your sling should be worn at all times (day and night – except for exercises)
- The sling can be removed for showering but the arm should remain supported
- Elevate the arm above your chest while laying down if you are experiencing pain or throbbing

● EXERCISE

- Formal physical therapy (PT) will begin after your first post-operative visit and the script is provided to you the day of surgery.

● EMERGENCIES**

- Contact Dr. Yanke at 312-432-2440 if any of the following are present:
 - Painful swelling or numbness
 - Unrelenting pain

- Fever greater than 101.5° at least 48 hours after surgery surgery) or chills
- Redness that is spreading around incisions
- Continuous drainage or bleeding from incision (a small amount of drainage is expected)
- Excessive nausea/vomiting
- Difficulty breathing/chest pain - Consider going directly to the emergency room if this is persistent
- ****If you have an emergency after office hours or on the weekend, contact the same office number (312-432-2440) and you will be connected to our page service – they will contact Dr. Yanke**
- ***Do NOT call the hospital or surgicenter.**
- ****If you have an emergency that requires immediate attention, proceed to the nearest emergency room.**

- **FOLLOW-UP CARE/QUESTIONS**
 - You will receive a call within 48 hours of surgery to check on your status. Typically this will be the night of surgery
 - If you have additional questions that arise at any time, feel free to email Adam.Yanke@rushortho.com
 - If you do not already have a postoperative appointment scheduled, please contact the office during normal office hours (312-432-2440) and ask for appointment scheduling.