



POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS KNEE ARTHROSCOPY

❖ MOVEMENT

- You can walk and bend your knee as much as tolerated. Use your crutches for the first week. Do not go for long walks or stand on your feet for extended periods of time. This will cause swelling and pain.

❖ ICE

- An ice machine will be provided to you prior to your surgery. This will help decrease swelling and pain after your surgery. Use the ice machine as much as possible when you get home at intervals of 30 minutes on and off. You should keep the ice machine for approximately two weeks. Do not use the ice machine while you are sleeping.
- In addition to icing your knee, elevate your knee so your toes are above your nose. This elevates your knee above your heart and will help reduce swelling.

❖ MEDICATIONS

- An injection of local anesthesia was injected into your knee after the completion of the operation. This medication will wear off in 5 to 6 hours. Therefore, begin taking the **pain medication** (e.g. Vicodin, Percocet, etc) immediately when you get home. This will prevent you from having severe pain. Take the pain medication every 4 hours until you go to bed.
- The day after surgery you can take 600 mg of Ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) every 6 hours to help with inflammation and pain. This medication will help cut down the use of narcotic-based pain medication. However, if you still have pain after taking the Ibuprofen, continue taking the pain medication every 4-6 hours as needed.
- A **sleeping medication** (e.g. Ambien) is also provided to help you sleep at night. Take one tablet 30 minutes before you plan to sleep.

❖ DRESSING/BANDAGES

- Keep the ACE wrap clean and dry. You may shower the next day after surgery with a plastic bag over your knee. Do not take a bath or submerge your knee in water until your incisions are checked at your first post-op visit.
- Two days after surgery you may remove the entire dressing and get your incisions wet in the shower. Gently wash the wounds with soap and warm water and towel dry. You may then cover the incisions with band-aids until your post op visit.

❖ 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

- Please call the office prior to, or immediately following, your surgery in order to schedule a postoperative appointment. This should be scheduled 7-10 days after surgery. At that visit your stitches will be removed and you will be given a prescription for physical therapy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (310) 860-3048.