

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

HIP ARTHROSCOPY

❖ MOVEMENT

- You can weight-bear as tolerated after surgery, once your nerve block has resolved (typically within 24 hours). However, it is required that you use crutches for 2 weeks postoperatively to provide you with extra stability and to protect your hip. Do not hyperextend or hyperflex your hip. This will be painful. Only move your hip within a pain-free range of motion.
- The day after surgery, once your nerve block has worn off, we encourage you to ride a stationary bike two times a day every day for 5-10 minutes as tolerated. This will keep your hip from getting too stiff immediately after surgery.

❖ 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.

❖ MEDICATIONS

- If you were given a nerve block for anesthesia, it will wear off over 18-24 hours. During this time you will have little to no feeling in the body part where you had surgery (i.e. leg). Please be careful and use your brace and crutches during this time to avoid any falls after your surgery. Also, an injection of local anesthesia was injected into your hip after the completion of the operation. This medication will wear off in 5 to 6 hours. To control your pain during this transition while the nerve block is wearing off, you are to eat first and then begin taking the **pain medication** (e.g. Norco, Percocet, etc) immediately when you get home from surgery. 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 will begin taking 600 mg of Ibuprofen [equivalent to (3) over-the-counter Advil tablets or (1) Duexis tablet] three times per day with meals. 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. One week after surgery you will begin taking either (1) Duexis tablet or (3) over-the-counter Advil tablets twice a day, for an entire month. This will prevent bone from re-growing in the hip joint.

❖ DRESSING/BANDAGES

- Your hip dressing is waterproof. You may shower the next day after surgery. Two days after surgery you may remove the entire dressing. 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.
- Do not take a bath or submerge your hip in water until your incisions are checked at your first 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) 860-3051 or you can email us at surgery@snibbeorthopedics.com.