



## Knee Surgery Post-Operative Instructions

- **PAIN**

- Most patients require some narcotic medication after surgery. You will be given a prescription(s) with instructions for its use. *Do not take more than prescribed.* If your pain is not adequately controlled, contact the surgeon on call. Phone numbers are provided.
- If you had a nerve block done by anesthesia, please contact Dr. Swenson with questions. He will provide you with the contact information. When the nerve block wears off, pain can increase so you may notice you will need more oral narcotics at that time.
- Common side effects of the narcotics include nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, constipation, and difficulty urinating. If you experience constipation, use an over the counter laxative. Minimize the risk of constipation by staying well hydrated and including fiber in your diet. If you have difficulty urinating, try spending a little time out of bed on the crutches. If it is not possible for you to urinate and you become uncomfortable, it is best if you go to the Emergency Room to get catheterized.
- Contact the office if you have nausea and vomiting. This is usually caused by the anesthesia or narcotics. We will either give you a medication for nausea at time of surgery or we will call it in to a pharmacy if you experience these symptoms.
- Do not drive or make important business decisions while using narcotics.
- Anti-inflammatories (advil, naprosyn, aleve, etc) may be taken in conjunction with the pain medication to help reduce the amount of narcotics needed. Do not take extra Tylenol if the pain medication given to you already has Tylenol in it.

- **WOUND CARE**

- You may remove the Operative Dressing 2-3 days after surgery.
- **KEEP THE INCISIONS CLEAN AND DRY.**
- Apply the Op-Site bandage to the incisions. Please leave them in place until your post-operative visit. Please do not use Bacitracin or other ointments under the bandage.
- An ACE wrap may be used to help control swelling. Do not wrap the ACE too tight.
- Use Ice or the Cooling Unit as often as possible for the first 3-4 days, then as needed for pain relief. We recommend using the cold therapy for 20 minutes every hour. Do not exceed 30 minutes every hour.
- You may shower on Post-Op Day #3. Gently pat the area dry. Do not soak the knee in water. Do not go swimming in the pool or ocean until your incisions have fully healed.
- A low-grade temperature is very common within the first few days of surgery. This can often be treated with getting out of bed in a sitting or



**HEALTH**  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

**Travis G. Maak, MD**  
**Sports Medicine**  
**University of Utah Orthopaedics**  
**590 Wakara Way**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84108**

standing position, deep breathing and coughing to clear the lungs. If fevers, pain or swelling continue, please call.

- **EXERCISES**
  - Keep your leg elevated with a pillow under your heel, NOT under the knee
  - Follow the instructions detailed on the exercise sheet that was given to you. Pay specific attention to:
    - Towel roll under heel
    - Quadriceps squeezes
    - Straight Leg Raises
    - Active Flexion (bending) / Passive Extension (straightening)
- **DIET**
  - Begin with clear fluids and light foods (jello, clear broths). Progress to a regular diet as tolerated.
- **CONCERNS/QUESTIONS**
  - If you feel unrelenting pain, notice incision redness, continuous drainage or bleeding from wounds, continued fevers greater than 101°, difficulty breathing or excessive nausea/vomiting, please call **(801) 587-7040** during regular office hours or **(801) 587-7100** (physicians' answering service) after 4:00 pm or on weekends.
  - If you have an emergency that requires immediate attention, proceed to the nearest Emergency Room.
- **FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS**
  - If you do not already have a follow up appointment scheduled, please call (801) 587-7109 during normal office hours and ask to schedule an appointment. We would like to see you for a post-operative visit 10-14 days after surgery. However, if there are any post-operative surgical concerns, please call and we will get you in sooner.
- **STUDY PATIENTS**
  - We thank you for participating in clinical studies. Our intention is to improve your care and the care of future patients.
  - If you have any questions regarding the study, please call the numbers provided on the study documents or you may contact the office numbers provided below.
- **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**
  - Questions
    - During Office Hours (8:00-4:00)
      - Cassidy (Medical Assistant) 801-587-7040
      - Nikki Cooper (Practice Coordinator) 801-587-0989
      - Mark Beese (ATC) 801-587-1473



**HEALTH**  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

**Travis G. Maak, MD**  
**Sports Medicine**  
**University of Utah Orthopaedics**  
**590 Wakara Way**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84108**

- After Hours (Tell the hospital operator your surgeon's name and they will contact the appropriate on call physician)
  - 801-581-2121
- Office Appointment Scheduling
  - 801-587-0989
- Surgery Scheduling
  - Tiffany 801-587-7187
- Physical Therapy
  - 801-587-7005
- Toll Free
  - 1-800-824-2073
- Dr. Maak Fax
  - 801-587-3990