



ORTHOPEDIC
ASSOCIATES
of HARTFORD

Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair and Spur Removal

Post-Operative Instructions Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair

1. **DRESSINGS:** Your dressing may be removed in 2 days. There are sutures in the incisions, please keep covered. Do not bathe or submerge in water for 7-10 days.
2. **ACTIVITY:** You may only move the arm at the elbow joint. Overhead activity and lifting are not permitted. **YOU MUST WEAR THE SLING PROVIDED FOR YOU UNTIL YOUR FOLLOW-UP VISIT. DO NOT MOVE YOUR SHOULDER.**
3. **MEDICATION:** A prescription will be provided to help relieve pain. Please use this medication as directed. This medication is strong, and should not be taken with alcohol or other pain medications, and may cause drowsiness. Exercise good judgment in its use. You may also try over the counter pain medications such as Aleve (naprosyn) or Advil (Ibuprofen). Take as directed unless there are contraindications. **Take 1 Aspirin (325 mg) daily in addition to the pain medication.** If additional medication is required, please call our office.
4. **FOLLOW - UP:** You should call the office, (549-8249), the day after your surgery and make an appointment for follow-up 7-10 days from the date of your procedure. If you have any specific questions or concerns, let our secretary know, and we will get back to you.
5. **WORK:** You may return to work when comfortable. Be sure to follow the above activity instructions.
6. **QUESTIONS:** Please refer to frequently asked questions sheet.
7. **PAIN PUMP:** You may have a pain pump cartridge, with a small tube going into the shoulder. The cartridge automatically delivers marcaine into the shoulder. At the time of the dressing change, when empty, the tube will be removed. It is gently pulled out of the shoulder (it is in there about 3-6 inches) and discarded in the regular trash.

PAIN PUMP REMOVAL

1. You have a special catheter with small plastic tubing that delivers medications to your surgical site to help with your pain.
2. You do not need to do anything with the catheter for 48 hours from your surgery.
3. At 48 hours, you will carefully remove your dressing and you will find tape holding the catheter to your skin. Remove the tape, then pull out the tubing (it is about 3-6 inches long). Discard the catheter and the pump.
4. Place a band-aid over the small hole where the catheter was located. Leave the other stitches alone.

SHOULDER ARTHROSCOPY POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

You've had arthroscopic surgery today. Your shoulder joint and rotator cuff were evaluated thoroughly.

I found in your shoulder:

___ Bone Spurs ___ Arthritis ___ Bursitis/Tendonitis ___ Ligament Damage/Instability
___ Rotator Cuff Tear ___ Biceps tear ___ Cartilage/Labral Damage

I was able to:

___ Shave bone spurs ___ Clean Arthritis ___ Remove Bursitis ___ Repair rotator cuff tear
___ Repair ligament damage ___ Repair/Shave cartilage damage

Until I see you, you should:

___ Use your arm normally ___ Not lift or carry ___ Move your elbow only
___ Wear your sling ___ all the time ___ for comfort only
___ Start physical therapy (a referral has been given)
___ Perform pendulum exercises

You should change your dressing in 2 days. Cover the portals with band aids. If you have a **PAIN PUMP**, remove it with your dressing. We will remove all stitches at your visit. You may shower at 48 hours but do not soak the incisions.

Pain is expected for several weeks. Use your medication for severe pain. You can take Aleve 440 mg twice daily (if not allergic, or no ulcer history). Call if fever greater than 101 °, or if infection is noted. Call 549-8249 for office visit **7-10** days after surgery. If you want to return to work before your next visit, call the office.

