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### SHOULDER ARTHROPLASTY

Post-Operative Instructions

# **Pain Control and Ice**

- A pain medication prescription will be provided prior to discharge.
- You may take the prescribed medication as directed.
- Please take **ONE ASPIRIN 81 MG PO BID X 3 WEEKS** for DVT prophylaxis
- Patients often only need prescription narcotics for a few days following the surgery and then can switch to over-the counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, or Ibuprofen.
  - 1) While taking narcotic medication, you may become constipated. If this occurs then you should take a stool softener (Ex: Colace, Senna) which can be purchased over the counter.
- Ice bags should be utilized to decrease swelling and pain. Ice should be applied to the shoulder up to three times a day for 20 minute periods until swelling subsides

#### Wound Care

- Please keep your waterproof dressing on at all times
- Showering is acceptable after 48 hours. You may get the dressing wet
- No swimming or tub bathing until cleared by Dr. Piposar at your first post-operative appointment

# Rehabilitation/ General Post-Op Care

- Please schedule Physical Therapy to begin 1 week following surgery
- Your sling is for comfort. You may remove it to shower, bathe, and perform your elbow, wrist, and hand exercises. You may discontinue its use when you feel comfortable.
- YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO EXTERNALLY ROTATE YOUR ARM PAST NEUTRAL
  - 1) Keep your arm in front of you at all times or across your body. Do NOT reach out to the side (away from your body)
- Your first post-op appointment is 10-14 days following surgery. This is usually scheduled at your preoperative visit. If not, then please call the office to schedule
- You may drive once you establish control of your operative extremity. You may not drive under influence of pain medication.

# **Important Notes**

- Peri-incisional numbness should be expected after any skin incision. Even the small incisions used for a shoulder arthroscopy.
- Call office for Temperature >102 degrees, excessive swelling, pain or redness around the incision sites

# **EARLY POST-OPERATIVE HOME EXERCISES**

Start the following exercises as soon as you are able. You may feel uncomfortable at first, but these exercises will speed your recovery and actually diminish your post-operative pain.

Repetitions per set: 20

Sets of each exercise: 3

Sets per day: 3

• Open and close your hand.



• Bend your elbow and wrist up and down.



• Turn your palm up and down in a motion similar to turning the pages of a book.



• Pinch your shoulder blades together and hold.



• Shoulder pendulums.

