
POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
ELBOW SURGERY

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY *****

After the surgery you will be given your prescription for pain, please take them with food. **The pain medication is a controlled substance so please use them sparingly as Dr. Feldman does not give refills. Start taking the medication as the anesthesia wears off.**

Please contact Dr. Syed Husain Pain Management 212-400-6622 if you need a refill on pain medication. Have anti-inflammatory medications at home ie: Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, Aleve, or Voltaren and Tylenol ES to use instead of the prescribed medication for milder pain.

It is important to remember that you have just had surgery and will need a minimum of 48-72 hours to recover. Anesthesia can remain in the body for up to 48 hours post-operatively so please refrain from activities such as excess walking or climbing. No working out until after the post-op visit. It takes 48-72 hours for the pain and swelling to peak, **SWELLING AND PAIN IS NORMAL.**

To decrease the swelling:

- Keep your elbow elevated by placing your arm upright on your chest in the sling (like you are pledging allegiance to the flag) and flex your fingers periodically.
- Apply the cold therapy or ice pack and keep the elbow cool as much as possible for the first 48-72 hours. After the dressings are removed on the fifth day you may cool the elbow for 30-60 minutes increments, 3-5 times a day. Please insure that there is a protective layer between the skin and the unit (towel or pillowcase).

It is normal to see drainage on your dressing; this is caused by the irrigation fluids used during your operation. This is normal providing the color of the blood fades to a dark brown within 24 hours. This would indicate old / dry blood. However if there is excessive bleeding (bright red) and the dressing is soaked apply pressure and elevate arm in sling,

PLEASE CALL OFFICE ASAP or GO TO EMERGENCY ROOM AT HOSPITAL FOR JOINT DISEASES OR NEAREST ER , for evaluation and treatment. PLEASE notify office of outcome.

YOU MUST NOT GET THE DRESSINGS WET. You can take a Sponge Bath or Cover the arm with a Garbage Bag and Duct Tape. PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL IN THE BATH / SHOWER BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE ARM.

PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE HELP YOU OR MAKE ACCOMODATIONS.

DO NOT REMOVE THE DRESSINGS UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE OFFICE FOR YOUR POST-OP APPOINTMENT USUALLY 7-12 DAYS AFTER SURGERY

In case if INTRACTABLE, unrelenting pain, that is not alleviated by several doses of the analgesic (pain killer) medication, and if your are unable to reach Dr. Feldman's staff at the clinic, please leave a message with the service, so we could follow-up on your request and return your call. If this problem occurs during the night or on a weekend, please proceed to the Emergency Room at NYU Langone or any other ER in your area, for evaluation and pain management.

*****The office will contact you for the Post-Op appt. At this visit Dr. Feldman will discuss the surgery, prescribe Physical Therapy and brace/sling if indicated*****