

Post Operative Hip Arthroscopy Information

Medications

You will be given a prescription for a pain medication. Check with the nurse or pharmacist if you have any known drug allergies prior to taking the medication.

Pain medication can often cause drowsiness. Therefore, you should not drive or operate machinery while taking the pain medicine.

Certain pain medicines can cause itching, which can be treated with over-the-counter Benadryl. Nausea is also a frequent side effect, and can be decreased by eating a little prior to taking the medication. If either itching or nausea is persistent, please contact our office.

A common side effect of narcotic pain medication is constipation. It may be necessary to take an over the counter laxative or stool softener. Pericolace is an example of these types of medications. If you need assistance please ask the pharmacist at your selected pharmacy.

We are unable to fill prescriptions after office hours and on weekends. If you need a refill, please call the nurse early in the day so that the request can be filled.

Traveling

When flying in an airplane, do your best to move your legs and ankles while sitting. Do not cross your legs, do pump your ankles up and down, and at least every hour, do get up and use your crutches to walk down the aisle to help increase your circulation.

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy (PT) begins within the first few days after surgery. You may ride a stationary bike on post-op day #1 to maintain good range of motion in your hips. You will be instructed in a number of exercises which will help you heal properly and quickly. Some of these exercises will be part of your home exercise program (HEP). Refer to the protocol you received on the day of your surgery. Your PT prescription will be provided when scheduling surgery. If you or your therapist has questions, please call our staff at 615-329-6600 ext 1511.

Dr. Crook has set strict requirements for weight bearing. You will be “flat foot weight bearing” while using crutches. We want you to limit the amount of weight you place on your surgical leg to twenty pounds. A great way to learn what twenty pounds of weight bearing feels like is to crutch up to a bathroom scale, place your surgical leg on the scale, and slowly shift your weight onto the scale until you register twenty pounds. These limitations allow your hip joint to adapt to the pressure of weight bearing, while keeping enough weight off to allow optimal healing of the tissues. After the prescribed amount of time has lapsed, you may begin weaning off your crutches under the supervision of your physical therapist. You will not be physically able to immediately walk without crutches, or bear 100% of your weight on your surgical leg. Allow yourself time to make the transition gently. Please call us at the clinic with any questions or concerns at 615-329-6600 ext 1511.

Dressing Changes

The original dressing should be removed approximately 24-72 hours after surgery. Leave the steristrips in place as they will fall off about 2 weeks post op.

Showering

As long as there isn't any drainage from the incision sites, you may resume regular showers after the initial dressing is removed. Water may run over the incision. You may also shower immediately after surgery with an TegaDerm bandage in place. When complete, pat the incision dry, and re-apply a clean dressing.

Returning to Work or School

You may return to work or school one week after surgery if pain is tolerable. You must take the time to honor your commitments to physical therapy and office visits. Returning to heavy labor will be determined by your progression through physical therapy and the cartilage condition on the Acetabulum and Femoral Head.

Follow-up Appointments

Please call immediately to make a follow up appointment with us in the office if you have immediate concerns. Let the office know that you are a post-operative patient and must be added on the schedule. Desired appointment times for Dr. Crook's patients are post-op Day #14, 6 weeks, 12 weeks, and 6 months.

Risk

There are several risks to any surgery that must be taken into account.

Infection: Infection is decreased with sterile operating environment and antibiotics and careful handling of the incision sites following surgery.

DVT: (deep vein thrombosis, blood clot) Clots are decreased through instituting early motion, mechanical means (foot pumps) and medication (if needed).

Pain: All surgical procedures may cause pain. Additionally, there is a potential complication of pain. Medication, ice, rest, compression, elevation, and therapies reduce pain.

Numbness: Hip arthroscopy may cause numbness. There is a small chance of numbness in the genitalia region briefly post-operatively. Also, you may experience some numbness of the upper outer portion of the thigh on the operative leg after surgery, this is due to the Lateral Femoral Cutaneous nerve which is close to the surgical area. This nerve may be stretched or bruised during the procedure. This is normal and the numbness will resolve over time.

Call our office at 615-329-6600 ext 1511 and/or go to an emergency room IMMEDIATELY if any of the following occur:

- A. Fever, chills, or sweats
- B. Redness and warmth around the incision(s), non-clear drainage from the incision, or increased pain in or around the incision.
- C. Calf swelling, redness, pain, or warmth
- D. Chest pain, difficulty of breathing, or cough

*** If you become hospitalized for any reason after surgery, please inform the admitting ER physician to call us at 615-329-6600 ext 1511.