

MATTHEW J. DUBIEL M.D.

Shoulder and Elbow Surgery
www.mdubielmd.com

Ulnar Nerve Surgery

DIET

- Begin with clear liquids and light foods (jello, soups, etc.)
- Progress to your normal diet if you are not nauseated

WOUND CARE

- Maintain your operative dressing, loosen bandage if swelling of the elbow, wrist, or hand occurs. If you have a splint on, keep this clean and dry. It cannot get wet.
- It is normal for the incisions to bleed and swell following surgery – if blood soaks through the bandage, do not become alarmed – reinforce with additional dressing.
- You can shower two days after surgery. NO immersion of operative arm (i.e., bath)
- Keep your dressings clean and dry. You may need to cover them with a garbage bag in order to shower.

MEDICATIONS

- If you received a block your arm should feel numb anywhere between 12 and 36 hours before it wears off. If you did not receive a block, you may have had numbing medication injected near your wound and this should wear off between 12 and 24 hours.
- Most patients will require some narcotic pain medication for a short period of time – this can be taken as per directions on the bottle

Primary Medication-Oxycodone

- Plan to use it for 2 to 5 days, depending on level of pain
- Common side effects of the pain medication are nausea, drowsiness, and constipation – to decrease the side effects, take medication with food.
- If constipation occurs, consider taking an over-the-counter laxative
- If you are having problems with nausea and vomiting, contact the office to possibly have your medication changed
- Do not drive a car or operate machinery while taking the narcotic medication
- Ibuprofen 400-600mg (i.e., Advil) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be taken per package instructions in between the narcotic pain medication to help smooth out the post-operative ‘peaks and valleys’. Alternating ibuprofen and acetaminophen with each other allows you to maximize your pain control and minimize the need for the narcotic pain medication.

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ACTIVITY

- When sleeping or resting, inclined positions (i.e., reclining chair) and a pillow under the forearm for support may provide better comfort
 - Do not engage in activities which increase pain/swelling (lifting or any repetitive above shoulder level activities) over the first 7-10 days following surgery
 - Avoid long periods of sitting (without arm supported) or long distance traveling for 2 weeks
 - NO driving until instructed otherwise by physician
 - May return to sedentary work ONLY or school 3-4 days after surgery, if pain is tolerable
- *May apply ice pack up to 20 minutes every hour for the first 72 hours to help reduce swelling. Do not place ice pack directly on skin

****Emergencies****

- Contact Dr. Dubiel or his team at 231-935-5880 if any of the following are present:
 - Painful swelling or numbness
 - Unrelenting pain
 - Fever (over 101° – it is normal to have a low-grade fever for the first day or two following surgery) or chills
 - Redness around incisions
 - Color change in wrist, hand, or lower extremity
 - Continuous drainage or bleeding from incision (a small amount of drainage is expected)
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Excessive nausea/vomiting
- If you are experiencing an urgent need that cannot wait until normal business hours, call 231-935-5000 to connect to the Munson Switchboard and ask for the Munson Orthopedic Institute on-call physician to be paged.
- If you have an emergency that requires immediate attention, proceed to the nearest emergency room.
- If you do not already have a postoperative appointment scheduled, please contact the scheduling office during normal office hours 231-935-5880