**You are having replacement surgery on your knee: What to expect…….**

It is normal to have swelling and discomfort after surgery that may last anywhere from days to a week or more.

If you had a nerve block with your surgery, your leg may feel numb for up to 12 to 24 hours after surgery.

Following your surgery you will be provided with narcotic medications. These medications are designed to help with, but not completely take away, the post-operative pain. **DO NOT TAKE MORE OF THE PAIN MEDICATION**!!!!!!!

If you feel as though the pain is unbearable despite taking the pain medications AS PRESCRIBED, then your only other option is to go to the emergency room for pain control/management. We cannot safely prescribe you anything stronger that can be taken without constant monitoring.

**MEDICATIONS**

*The following medications are combination drugs that contain* ***TYLENOL/Acetaminophen*** *(in addition to the narcotic):*

* Percocet (Oxycodone/Acetaminophen)
* Norco (Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen)
* Tylenol #3 (Acetaminophen with Codeine)
* Endocet (Oxycodone/Acetaminophen)
* Ultracet (Tramadol/Acetaminophen)
* Lorcet (Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen)
* Lortab (Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen)
* Roxicet (Oxycodone/Acetaminophen)

***IF you were prescribed one of these combination medications (or another combination drug containing Tylenol or Acetaminophen), YOU MUST BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ADDING TYLENOL/ACETAMINOPHEN TO THESE MEDICATIONS. You should not exceed 3000mg of Tylenol/Acetaminophen in a 24 hour period. When taken in excessive doses, Tylenol/Acetaminophen can cause liver damage.***

**Do not drive or operate heavy machinery while taking narcotic medications**.

**Common side effects of narcotic pain medications:**

* Itching, rash
* Nausea
* Drowsiness
* Constipation
  + To help avoid constipation, drink plenty of water. It is also helpful to take an over the counter stool softener such as Colace or Senokot.

**PRE-OPERATIVE MEDICATIONS**

* **It is very important that you resume taking all of the medications that you were taking prior to your surgery, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YOUR SURGERY. Individuals who take a daily Aspirin for cardiac reasons and who were instructed to stop it for 5-7 days prior to their surgery should absolutely resume taking the Aspirin immediately after their surgery.**
* **Patients who were prescribed PLAVIX usually need to hold from taking the medication for 10 days prior to surgery and may restart the medication 7-10 days after surgery.**

**ICING YOUR KNEE**

* Icing is very important for the first 5-7 days postoperative. While the post-op dressing is in place, icing should be continuous. Once the dressing is removed on the first or second day, ice is applied for 20 minute periods 3-4 times per day. Care must be taken with icing to avoid frostbite to the skin. If you rented an ice machine from BioWorks, you may use this in 30 minute- 1 hour increments. Icing is most important in the first 48 hours, although many people find continuing it lessens their postoperative pain.

**CALL THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY** with any signs/symptoms of infection at the incision site(s) such as:

* Redness
* Swelling
* Warmth
* Drainage
* As well as if you experience any fever greater than 101.5, chills, and/or pain that is not relieved by the pain medications.

**If the office is closed or if you cannot reach anyone in the office** you should call (513) 354-3700 and ask to speak to the physician on call.

**OTHER**

* Make sure that you have an established support system prior to your surgery so that you will have people who can assist you during your recovery phase.
* Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages and smoking prior to surgery and during your recovery phase.
* Drink plenty of water and eat a regular diet.
* Plan to take **AT LEAST** a few days to a week off from work. We are able to provide a work note for you if necessary.
* Your dressing will be removed at your first physical therapy visit. If your first visit is after 3 days, you may remove your dressing on post-operative day 3. If the incision is not dry, please apply another dressing with gauze and tegaderm. If the incision is dry, the dressing may remain off.
* You may shower immediately with your wound covered. You may shower with your wound uncovered at day 5 after surgery unless your wound is not dry. You should not submerge your wound in water for 3-4 weeks. You should stay away from ponds, rivers, lakes, pools and hot tubs for 1 month after surgery.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

* Following surgery, you will be prescribed a regimen of physical therapy.
* **You will begin physical therapy immediately following your surgery while in the hospital. This will consist of a therapist moving your knee for you as well as them teaching you exercises to be done at home following discharge from the hospital. You will also be instructed on proper use of an assistive walking device.**
* **You will begin physical therapy immediately following your surgery, while in the hospital. If you are going to a facility other than Beacon Orthopaedics, please notify our office so that we can forward them the particular protocol for your surgery.**
* **Dr. Rolf will provide you with specific physical therapy instructions on the day of your surgery or during your first post-operative visit (7-10 days after your surgery).**

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL JOINT**…

* Now that you have an artificial joint, you will need to take antibiotics before any future dental and/or surgical procedures **for 2 years after your surgery**.
* We have provided you with our recommendations for antibiotic prophylaxis in a letter format (two copies are attached at the end of this document). We ask that you please give one copy to your dentist **and** one copy to your Primary Care Doctor.

Should you have any other questions regarding your post-operative instructions, feel free to contact us at (513) 813-1639.

Robert H. Rolf, MD

R. Lee Reynolds, PA-C

Lisa Osterbrock, PA-C, ATC

Dear Patient,

You have had surgery to replace one of your joints with a metal prosthesis or an allograft (donor bone). For the next two years, you must take oral antibiotics before any dental work (including routine cleanings), upper respiratory tract procedures such as endoscopy, or before any genitourinary/gastrointestinal procedures such as a colonoscopy. These procedures are a potential source of infection. If you develop an infection, it could spread to your operative area and cause complications. Please present this letter to your medical doctor and dentist, so he or she can prescribe the appropriate medications for you.

***Standard General Prophylactic:***

Amoxicillin Adults: 500 mg Take 4 capsules (2 grams) orally one hour before the procedure

***If allergic to Penicillin:***

Clindamycin Adults: 300 mg Take 2 capsules (600 mg) orally one hour before the procedure

Cephalexin Adults: 500 mg Take 4 capsules (2 grams) orally one hour before the procedure

Azithromycin Adults: 250 mg Take 2 capsules (500 mg) orally one hour before the procedure

NOTE: Cephalosporins should not be used if you have ever developed an immediate hypersensitivity reaction (i.e. hives, swelling, severe itching, difficulty breathing) to

Penicillin.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Robert H. Rolf, MD

*Beacon Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine*

*6480 Harrision Avenue*

*Cincinnati, OH 45247*

*(513) 354-3700 (phone)*

*(513) 354-7661 (fax)*

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