



# SETH CRINER

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

820 S. Akers, Suite 220 Visalia, CA 93277

Office Number: 559-733-3346

## **Knee Replacement Post-op Instructions**

### Wound Care/ Bathing:

- You may shower the day of surgery and the following 4 days with your water proof bandage
- You may remove your bandage 5 days after surgery (except the steri-strips on the skin, if you have them). You may get the hip wet, wash lightly with soap and water, and recover the incisions with Band-Aids.
- **NO SOAKING IN A POOL OR TUB** for 3 weeks.

### Pain Control:

- Pain medication should have been called in the day of your pre-op visit. Please take the pain medication as directed by the pharmacist when you pick up your prescription.
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- Take an anti-inflammatory like Celebrex or Meloxicam if we called either of those in, or else over-the-counter Advil, Aleve, etc for the first 2-4 weeks to help with the pain and swelling, but you can stop whenever the pain stops.
- Take the narcotics (usually hydrocodone/acetaminophen) only as needed. The one exception is it's good to take the narcotics around the clock the first 24 hrs after surgery to prevent yourself from being caught off guard from the numbing medication injected at the time of your surgery wearing off. You can take 1-2 pills every 4-6 hrs as needed for severe pain.
- Ice knee for 10-15 minutes every hour as needed for swelling.
- Elevate your leg, with your knee higher than your heart, as much as possible for pain & swelling
- A prescription for a Game Ready (compressive ice machine) was faxed to David at PT Specialists and he will be calling to set up a date to drop off the machine if you're interested. It's \$25/day and while not necessary, it's better than just using ice. Most patients use the machine for 3-5 days. Call David w/ questions at 559-625-2476.

### Blood Clot Prevention:

- Aspirin 325 mg one pill daily. This has been shown to minimize your chance of blood clots if you take it once daily for 30 days after your surgery.
- Getting up and walking around frequently during the day is also important – at least once every hr or 2 times a day further minimizes your risk of blood clots in your veins.

### Activity:

- Put full weight on your leg as your pain tolerates after surgery with crutches as needed.
- Limit stair climbing and kneeling on your knee.
- I recommend you not return to work until the following week for your comfort and safety, and only return if and when you can do so safely.
- It's safest to not drive until your first follow-up appointment. If you're no longer taking narcotics, and your leg is full strength it may be okay to start earlier.

#### Physical Therapy:

- You should have been given a physical therapy prescription at your pre-op visit, if not call the office and request we fax one and give you the phone number to schedule an appt.
- Call and schedule your first appointment for 4 to 9 days following your surgery.
- Review the therapy protocol so you have an idea of the timeline of what you'll be doing.

#### Follow-up Appointments:

- Your 10-14 day post-op appointment should have been made at your pre-op visit, but if not call 559-733-3346.
- The following standard post-operative visits will be scheduled at will be at the following time frames following surgery: 7 weeks, 14 weeks, and 6 months

#### Questions:

- Call 559-733-3346 and ask for Jules during the day.

#### Emergencies:

- If you have emergent questions or concerns that can't wait until the day, you may dial the same office number and will get the on call orthopedic doc. If it's not Dr. Criner, the surgeon that answers your call won't know who you are, so be sure to clarify that you are one of Dr. Criner's patients, tell them the surgery you had, and how many days ago you had surgery.
- It is our office policy not to prescribe medications over the phone. If you need any medication during the night or weekend, you'll have to go to the emergency room.