

POST OPERATIVE PATIENT INFORMATION FOR KNEE ARTHROSCOPY

The inside of your joint will be visualized with the arthroscope, a diagnosis established, and the appropriate surgery performed with special micro instruments.

BANDAGES: The bandage applied to your incisions may become moist or bloodstained; however, this is normal and results from fluid placed in the joint during surgery. If your bandage becomes saturated with bright red blood, please call me. Keep this dressing in place for 72 hours. You may then remove the bandage and shower, but do not soak or submerge the joint (such as a bath or spa) until 4 weeks postoperative. Do not remove the tapes overlying your incision. After showering, please apply clean 4x4 gauze and elastic wrap. Note: It is normal to have some swelling, drainage, and minor redness at the incisions.

ACTIVITY: You may bear as much weight as tolerated (unless otherwise instructed) but **avoid excessive activity. as this will cause increased swelling and inflammation.** If you find yourself limping, use crutches and place part or all your weight on your foot as tolerated. Please do range of motion (bending and straightening) of the affected joint several times daily so long as it does not cause significant pain or inflammation. There may be a sensation of splashing of fluid within your joint, however this is normal and should not concern you.

PAIN CONTROL: You will find that your knee is swollen and tender for the first few days after surgery. To reduce this, keep the leg elevated and use the cooling device/ice packs as much as possible for the first 72 hours. You may also take acetaminophen and ibuprofen as directed, which can be obtained over the counter.

PRECAUTIONS: If you develop a fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, if the pain you feel is much greater than that expected, or if you develop severe redness or swelling, please call my office. (You should expect some calf and ankle/foot swelling, as this occurs in all cases, but I am referring to more than you would expect.) Please avoid direct sun light on the incisions until the scars are no longer red.

Note: I feel it appropriate to remind you that although the external incisions are quite small, you have nonetheless had a major operative procedure within your joint. My experience has shown that internal healing takes several weeks, although the external healing occurs more rapidly.