



## Xinning Li, M.D.



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### POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS – OSTEOTOMY (HIGH TIBIAL / DISTAL FEMORAL )

#### **BRACE / AMBULATION**

- Your leg will be placed in the Bledsoe brace postoperatively. You will need to wear this brace at all times. It should be locked in full extension (0 degrees) until your first postoperative visit with Dr. Li.
- You will be ambulating with your brace. You must use your crutches.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Non Weight-bearing (NWB)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Toe Touch Weight-bearing (TTWB)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Partial weight-bearing (PWB)
- While in the recovery room, the PACU nurse will instruct you in putting on and taking off your brace, ambulating, climbing stairs, and other activities of daily life. Listen to them carefully.
- Other Instructions:

#### **WOUND CARE**

- You may remove the Operative Dressing on Post-Op Day # 2
- KEEP THE INCISIONS CLEAN AND DRY.
- Apply Band-Aids to the wounds. Change the Band-Aids daily. Do not remove the Steri-strips. Please do not use Bacitracin or other ointments under the bandage.
- An ACE wrap may be used to help control swelling. Do not wrap the ACE too tight. You may be given a stockinette to place over your wound and under the brace – this is to help alleviate sweating under the brace.
- There may be a small amount of bleeding and/or fluid leaking at the surgical site. This is normal. The knee is filled with fluid during surgery, sometimes causing leakage for 24-36 hours. You may change or reinforce the bandage as needed.
- Use Ice or the Cryocuff as often as possible for the first 3-4 days, then as needed for pain relief. Do not wrap the Ace too thickly or the Cryocuff cold may not penetrate.
- There will actually be more swelling on days 1-3 than you had the day of surgery. This is normal. The swelling is decreased by using Ice or the Cryocuff. The swelling will make it more difficult to bend your knee, but once the swelling goes down, it will become easier to bend your knee.

- You may shower on Post-Op Day #3 using a water-tight plastic bag over your knee. **DO NOT GET THE WOUND WET.** You may gently wash around in incision with a washcloth, then gently pat the area dry. Do not soak the knee in water. Do not go swimming in the pool or ocean until your sutures are removed.

## **FOLLOW-UP**

- Please call the office to schedule a follow-up appointment 10-14 days post-operatively.
- At your post-operative visit, Dr. Li will go over your surgery, show you arthroscopic photographs from your surgery, and outline your rehabilitation.

## **POST-OP**

- Enclosed is a prescription for you to use post-operatively:
  - PERCOCET or OXYCODONE, a strong narcotic, is to be used only on an “as needed” basis for pain.
  - Please hold off on taking any Anti-Inflammatories (Advil, Motrin, Aleve, etc.) for the first 6 weeks after surgery until you check with Dr. Li. Tylenol is OK.
- If you have any adverse effects with the medications, please call our office.
- If you develop a Fever (101.5), Redness or Drainage from the surgical incision site, please call our office to arrange for an evaluation.

## **DRIVING**

- If your Right Knee is the operative side, you MAY NOT DRIVE FOR 6 WEEKS. It is important to regain adequate Quadriceps control before operating a motor vehicle.
- If your Left Knee is the operative side and you drive an Automatic Transmission vehicle, you may drive a few days AFTER you finish taking your pain medication. It is important that you feel very confident in your ability to respond efficiently before attempting to drive.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL OUR OFFICE.**