

## POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

# Bankart Repair

STEPHEN M. DESIO, M.D.

- 1) After your Bankart surgery, there will be a bulky bandage over your shoulder and your arm will be in a sling with a small pillow attached. This sling takes the pressure off the repaired ligament. It is to remain on at all times except for dressing and undressing. While getting dressed, try to keep you elbow as close to your body as possible to avoid stressing the repaired ligaments.
- 2) The sling may be worn outside your clothes. To dress, place the operative arm in a button type shirt first. Then insert the nonoperative arm and button shirt. Then, place arm in brace and secure both straps of sling until snug. One strap will go around your waist like a belt, the second will go over your other shoulder like a sling. Each strap has a tag with a label for adjusting to comfort.
- 3) A Cold Therapy Cold Pack may be placed on top of your bandage after surgery. This is connected to a cooler that you will fill with ice and water. Cryotherapy is also known as cold therapy. This is the treatment of pain and/or inflammation by lowering the temperature of the skin over the affected area. It is probably the oldest form of pain control! In addition, it can significantly improve swelling after an injury or surgery.



Universal  
Wrap-On



The gray pad is placed on your shoulder after the bandage is applied. The blue tube is connected to the cooler and ice water will automatically circulate through the pad to decrease pain and inflammation from surgery. The pad and cooler are yours to keep. Do not bring them to the office unless you are having problems with them.

- 4) You may remove your bandage and take a shower with your stitches 2 days after surgery as long as there is no drainage from the incision sites. If you notice drainage from the sites, hold off on getting them wet until they are completely dry. Place Band-Aids over the incisions once per day until they are fully healed. Do not soak incisions in water. No swimming or bath for 7 days after surgery.

### 5) **MEDICATIONS:**

- a) You may have had a nerve block before surgery. This may provide numbness of your shoulder, arm, and hand for up to 24 hours. When the nerve block wears off, expect an increase in your pain.

- b) You will be given a prescription for a pain killer that is a narcotic. This is usually Percocet, Roxicet, Oxycodone, or something similar.
  - c) Pain Management is very important during the first few days after surgery. To prevent the pain from getting ahead of you, take your pain medication regularly for the first 24 hours until the nerve block has worn off.
  - d) A stool softener is recommended i.e. Colace. One of the most common side effects of pain medications is nausea and constipation.
  - e) If you experience nausea, it is most commonly a side effect of the Percocet, and the anesthesia. Please call the office and we will phone in medication for the nausea.
  - f) Although blood clots are rare, you should take an Aspirin a day for 1 week after surgery to reduce the risk.
  - g) Contact the office if you have any redness or excessive drainage at the incision sites.
- 6) A prescription will be given for pain medication. If you feel it is too strong or you do not need it, Tylenol<sup>®</sup>, Advil<sup>®</sup>, Ibuprofen, or Aleve<sup>®</sup> may be used instead, as long as you do not have any allergies to these medications.
- 7) EXERCISE: Begin immediately working on your grip strength with a soft ball or wash cloth. You may loosen the sling to move your elbow immediately so it doesn't get stiff. Do not move your elbow away from your body until told to do so by Dr. Desio.

If you have any questions, please call:  
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