



Duke Orthopaedics: Upper Extremity Division

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Discharge Instructions after Reverse Ball and Socket Arthroplasty

- A sling has been provided for you. Wear this at all times, removing it only to shower with your arm at your side, and to perform elbow/wrist/finger range of motion exercises.
 - Use ice on the shoulder intermittently over the first 48 hours after surgery.
 - Pain medication has been prescribed for you. Take a stool softener (Colace, Dulcolax or Senakot) if you are using narcotic pain medications.
 - Use your medication liberally as directed over the first 48 hours, and then begin to taper your use. You may take Extra Strength Tylenol or Tylenol only in place of the pain pills.
 - DO NOT take ANY nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory pain medications: Advil, Motrin, Ibuprofen, Aleve, Naproxen, or Naprosyn.**
 - You may remove your dressing after two days, but leave steri-strips in place. They will fall off on their own.
 - You may shower 5 days after surgery. The incision CANNOT get wet prior to 5 days. Simply allow the water to wash over the site and then pat dry. Do not rub the incision. Make sure your axilla (armpit) is completely dry after showering.
 - Take one 325mg aspirin a day for 6 weeks after surgery, unless you have an aspirin sensitivity/allergy or asthma.
- If you have any problems:
- During business hours call the office: 919-403 3057
 - After hours call and ask for the orthopaedic resident on call: 919-684-8111
- Concerning findings:
- Excessive redness of the incisions
 - Drainage for more than 4 days after surgery
 - Fever of more than 101.5° F