

## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS OUTPATIENT KNEE REPLACEMENT

At your preoperative consent visit, medications for after surgery will be sent to your pharmacy. These can (but will not always) include:

Meloxicam (anti-inflammatory)  
Gabapentin (pain medicine)  
Oxycodone (pain medicine)  
Tylenol (anti-inflammatory)  
Dexamethasone (anti-inflammatory), will not take if diabetic.  
Aspirin (blood thinner)  
Colace (stool softener)

Please pick these medications up prior to surgery so you will have them at home after your surgery. Please review this list, and make the doctor and/or staff aware of any allergies or issues you have with these medications, or any contraindications.

### **Prevention of blood clots (DVT) after surgery (VERY IMPORTANT!):**

After surgery, it is very important that you begin aspirin 81 twice a day the day after surgery to prevent blood clots. Blood clots can be a major complicating problem after a knee replacement so it is very important to take this medicine as prescribed. It is also helpful to walk as much as possible to help keep good blood flow.

If you already take a blood thinner, restart your normal blood thinner as prescribed the day after surgery. Normally, this will be discussed with your primary care physician and/or cardiologist prior to surgery.

### *IF YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF BLOOD CLOTS...*

If you have a history of previous blood clots, you will be started on **Eliquis 2.5 mg twice daily**.

### NERVE BLOCK

You will get a nerve block the morning of surgery. This provides pain relief for after surgery. These normally provide significant early pain relief, and tend to last 24-72 hours. However, do not wait for your nerve block to wear off. Begin taking medicines as prescribed once you get home so you will not fall behind and have issues with pain control.

I will also inject EXPAREL (a numbing medicine designed to further provide pain relief) into the knee at the time of surgery which helps with post operative pain control.

### PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapy is a very important part of the recovery process. Therapy needs to be set up **prior to your surgery** and starts the week of your surgery. Most of the time, home health is set up prior to surgery and includes a therapist coming to your house for the first 1-4 weeks. After this, you will begin outpatient therapy.

After surgery, you will have a walker to help with your walking. Please make sure this has been arranged prior to surgery so it will be at your house after surgery.

At the time of surgery, you will have an ice machine placed on your knee under the surgical dressing. This is known as cryotherapy. This helps greatly after surgery with swelling, inflammation, and pain.

At the time of surgery, you will also have an incisional wound vac placed on your incision. This will be underneath your surgical dressing. It has a battery pack attached to it which you will go home with. It lasts for exactly 7 days and helps keep your incision clean, and decrease swelling/pain. If your battery pack begins making beeping noises, please contact office. This normally means there is an issue with the seal, and can easily be removed in the office.

You will have a follow up appointment scheduled for **one week** after your knee replacement.

Please contact office directly, with any questions or concerns.