

**University Place
Orthopaedics**

Dr. Andrew Feldman

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POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
SHOULDER REPLACEMENT SURGERY

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY *****

After the surgery you will be given your prescription for pain, please take them with food. **The pain medication is a controlled substance so please use them sparingly as Dr. Feldman does not give refills. Start taking the medication as the anesthesia wears off.**

Please contact Dr. Syed Husain Pain Management 212-400-6622 if you need a refill on pain medication. Have anti-inflammatory medications at home ie: Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, Aleve, or Voltaren and Tylenol ES to use instead of the prescribed medication for milder pain.

***Nerve Block will be given by anesthesia, your arm may be numb for 12-24 hours after the surgery. Do not be alarmed. When Nerve Block starts to wear off start taking the pain medication. If pain becomes unbearable seek medical consult near your home.**

It is important to remember that you have just had surgery and will need a minimum of 48-72 hours to recover. Anesthesia can remain in the body for up to 48 hours post-operatively so please refrain from activities such as excess walking or climbing. No working out until after the post-op visit. It takes 48-72 hours for the pain and swelling to peak, **SWELLING AND PAIN IS NORMAL.**

To decrease the swelling :

- Keep your shoulder elevated by placing your arm upright on your chest (like you are pledging allegiance to the flag) and flex your fingers periodically.
- Apply the cold therapy unit or ice pack and keep the shoulder cool as much as possible for the first 72-96 hours.
- You will not remove any of the bandages until your post op visit in the office, where the doctor/assistant will remove the bandages for you.
- Please insure that there is a protective layer between the skin and the unit (towel or pillowcase).

Keep the dressing clean & dry as you continue to keep your arm in the sling or immobilizer.

It is normal to see drainage on your dressing; this is caused by the irrigation fluids used during your operation. This is normal providing the color of the blood fades to a dark brown within 24 hours. This would indicate old / dry blood. However if there is excessive bleeding (bright red) and the dressing is soaked apply pressure on the shoulder,

PLEASE CALL OFFICE ASAP or GO TO EMERGENCY ROOM AT HOSPITAL FOR JOINT DISEASES OR NEAREST ER , for evaluation and treatment. PLEASE notify office of outcome.

In case if **INTRACTABLE** , unrelenting pain, that is not alleviated by several doses of the analgesic (pain killer) medication, and if your are unable to reach Dr. Feldman's staff at the clinic, please leave a message with the service, so we could follow-up on your request and return your call. If this problem occurs during the night or on a weekend, please proceed to the Emergency Room at Hospital for Joint Diseases or any other ER in your area, for evaluation and pain management.

*****The office will contact you for the Post-Op appt. At this visit Dr. Feldman will discuss the surgery, prescribe Physical Therapy and brace if indicated*****