

## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: HAMSTRING REPAIR

### Pain Medications

- In most cases local or regional nerve blocks will provide 8-12 hours of numbness. As soon as you start to feel the numbness wearing off, begin taking oral pain medication.
- Take **Tylenol** 500mg one tab every 8 hours.
- Take **Aleve** 220mg one to two tabs every 12 hours.
- If you still have pain after Tylenol and Aleve, take one **Norco** tab (5mg/325mg).
- If you still have pain after all of the above, take a second Norco tab.
- Keep in mind Norco has Tylenol in it (325mg). If you take an extra Norco, then skip a dose of Tylenol. **DO NOT exceed 3500mg of Tylenol over 24 hours.**
- It is illegal to drive or operate machinery with narcotic medications.
- Do not combine alcohol or other sedatives with narcotic medications.
- You do not need to take Tylenol or Aleve once you no longer have pain. You should stop Norco first (usually after a few days).

### Other Medications

- Take **Aspirin** 325mg one tab once a day for the first 4 weeks to prevent blood clots.
- Take **Zofran** as needed for nausea (usually associated with anesthesia/narcotic meds).
- Take an over-the-counter stool softener (Docusate/Senna/Miralax) as needed for constipation.

### Activity

- Use crutches to assist with ambulation.
- You may bear 25% of your weight on your operative extremity.
- Elevate your leg on pillows above the heart level as much as possible to decrease swelling.
- Avoid prolonged periods standing to prevent excessive pain and swelling.

### Recovery Equipment

- You should wear the brace at all times (except for hygiene, but always keep knee bent at 45 degrees).

### Cold Therapy

- We recommend cold therapy use as much as possible in the first two weeks.
- Cold therapy units may be used continuously as instructed.
- Ice packs should be applied 30 minutes at a time, with 30 minutes off between applications.
- Do not apply ice directly to the skin to avoid burning.

### Recovery Exercises

- You may perform ankle exercises as instructed in your preoperative packet.
- You will begin physical therapy 4 weeks after surgery.

**Diet:** Please refer to your preoperative packet instructions.

**Incision Care:** Please refer to your preoperative packet instructions.

**Emergencies:** Please refer to your preoperative packet instructions.