



From the office of:

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**POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
PROCEDURE: PATELLOFEMORAL CARTILAGE REPAIR**

Diet: Begin with liquids and light foods (crackers, soup, etc.). Progress to your normal diet if you are not nauseated. You have been given a prescription for an anti-nausea medication to be taken if needed.

Pain Medication: You have been given a prescription for narcotic pain medicine. These types of medications can cause side effects including nausea, constipation, sedation and confusion. We recommend these only be used for 1 to 2 weeks after surgery. Do not drive while taking narcotic pain medication. An over-the-counter stool softener or laxative, such as Colace, Dulcolax, or Senokot, is recommended to prevent constipation. At any time, acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be substituted instead of your narcotic medicine and used for pain control. Do not exceed 4000 mg of acetaminophen in a 24 hour period. Do not combine with alcohol. **DO NOT** use any Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID's) such as aspirin, ibuprofen, Motrin, naproxen, or Aleve for 6 weeks after surgery.

Response to Surgery: It is normal to have pain and swelling in your leg after surgery. It will take several weeks for this to go away. Keep your leg elevated as much as possible to help with swelling control. It is also common to notice bruising around the leg.

Ice: Keep ice on your surgical site for 30 minutes at a time, then 30 minutes off. We recommend having two ice packs. Keep the unused pack in your freezer, and rotate the packs on and off the surgical site as often as needed. Continue to use the ice as often as possible for the first 5-7 days, then as needed for pain relief.

Wound Care: Do not remove your surgical dressing until your follow-up appointment. You may have some water or blood spotting on the dressing, which is normal. If this seems excessive, call our office for further instructions.

Brace: Wear your brace when sleeping and at all times when you are up walking. It will prevent your knee from bending. You may unlock the brace when you are sitting/lying quietly and may bend your knee up to 90 degrees as you are comfortable.

Weight-Bearing: Your weightbearing status is "as tolerated" which means you are allowed to place as much weight on the foot as comfortable, as long as the brace is on and locked in full extension. You should use 1-2 crutches when walking.

CPM: We will arrange for continuous passive motion (CPM) machine to be delivered to you. Begin using this on the third day after your surgery. Use this machine set at 0-60 degrees for 6 hours per day for the first four weeks.

Driving: You will be unable to drive until you are off narcotic medications and you have been allowed to discontinue your crutches. This will be approximately 6 weeks after surgery. It is important that you feel very confident in your ability to respond quickly to changing conditions before attempting to drive. Make sure you can safely get in and out of your car, as well.

Appointment: A follow-up appointment should be scheduled for you. If you didn't receive an appointment, or if you need to change your appointment time, please call our office at 314-523-2595.

Problems: If you develop severe pain, a fever greater than 101.5°, redness around the incision, thick yellow drainage from the incision, excessive bleeding, or persistent nausea and vomiting please call our office at **314-523-2595**.

Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our staff will be available to answer questions

Weekends & Evenings

Our after-hours emergency exchange will be able to contact Dr. Blackman