

Andrew J. Riff, MD, Hinsdale Orthopaedic Associates S.C.

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Phone: For appointments and calls after business hours (8-4:30 M-F) please call 630-323-6116 (central scheduling and call forwarding). For clinical concerns during business hours, please call Dr. Riff's office (630-920-2314).

Post-Operative Instructions – Gluteus Medius Repair

Prescription Meds:

1. Norco (hydrocodone/acetaminophen): This is used for pain control. Take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours as needed for pain. Pain levels are highest on days 1 thru 3 post op, so you will want to take this on a regular schedule. After that, take as needed. Do not drive, drink alcohol or take Tylenol while taking this medication.
2. Zofran 4mg: This is for nausea. Keep this prescription on standby in case you experience significant nausea associated with the pain medication.
3. Colace (over the counter): Take two 100mg tablets (200mg), twice daily to prevent constipation after surgery.
4. Aspirin (over the counter): Take one 81mg tablet daily for 3 weeks to minimize your risk of a blood clot

Wound Care: Leave the big surgical bandage on and do not shower for 48 hours after surgery. It is normal for the hip to bleed and swell following surgery. If blood soaks onto or through the dressing, this is not significant cause for concern. This is common for the first 24-48 hours after surgery. You may simply reinforce the dressing with gauze or change to a new clean dry gauze. After 48 hours, remove bandages. You do not need to replace them unless there is drainage.

Bathing: It is ok to shower after removing the dressing 48 hours after surgery. Let water run over Steri-strips, do not scrub. Do not submerge the wound in bathtub, hot tub, or pool for 4 weeks post-op.

Activity: Keep the leg elevated to the level of your chest to reduce swelling. You should maintain a flat-foot weight bearing restriction for 6 weeks with no active hip abduction (lifting your leg away from your body). If pain is tolerable, you may return to sedentary work or school 3-4 days after surgery.

Physical Therapy: You will be advised to start physical therapy between 2-3 days after surgery. Dr. Riff will give you further paperwork and instructions at your follow up visits.

Brace and Crutches: Your brace should be on, properly fitted, snug against the belly and thigh, to help limit mobility and protect your hip repair. The locking mechanism on the brace should be fixed to 90 degrees of flexion (forward bending) and 0 degrees of extension (or straightening of the leg and hip). The brace should be worn full time with the exception of bathing for the first 6 weeks.

Weight bearing: You should use two crutches at all times when walking. Typically, following surgery, you are allowed to put a little weight on your foot (about 20 pounds). Use a flat foot, not your tip-toes. This actually takes some pressure off of the repaired hip.

Ice Therapy: It is very important to keep ice on your hip during the initial post-operative period (first 2 weeks). This should begin immediately after surgery. Use an ice machine continuously or ice packs (if no machine used) for 20-30 minutes every 2 hours daily until your sutures are removed. Keep leg elevated while icing. Care should be taken to avoid frostbite while icing by making sure the ice is not directly touching the skin. .

Follow-up: You will need to follow up in clinic with Dr. Riff in 10-14 days. Please call central scheduling to make an appointment. At this visit you will receive updated instructions on your weight bearing, brace use and physical therapy.

When should you contact the office?

- If you have a fever >101.4 (a low grade temp is expected after surgery), but let us know if it gets this high!)
- You develop chills or sweats
- You have pus or excessive bloody drainage from the wound, or if you have pain or redness surrounding the incision sites.
- You have nausea and vomiting that will not resolve with Zofran.
- Difficulty breathing.