General Information

- You can eat and drink when you feel able to.
- Swelling and pain is normal, especially for the first 48 hours. Each patient experiences discomfort to a different degree but you can expect your discomfort to decrease rapidly over the first 48-72 hours postoperatively.
- Ice can be applied as needed for 20 minutes at a time, with 20 minute breaks in-between.
- Heat may be used as needed after the swelling is completely gone.
- You will be in a sling for at least two weeks until your first post-op appointment with a PA or until your second post-op appointment with your surgeon at six weeks post-surgery.
- Your doctor will give you a prescription for pain medication before you leave the hospital. Please check with us if you are allergic to any pain medication.
- Please follow the instructions given to you by the anesthesia team if you’ve received a nerve block (with or without a catheter) into your neck.
- You will have receive a local anesthetic during your operative procedure. In general, the local anesthesia continues to work for 4-12 hours postoperatively. This local anesthesia will greatly diminish your discomfort. However, as the anesthetic begins to wear off, you are encouraged to take your pain medication to help alleviate the ensuing anticipated discomfort.
- Most patients begin to see improvements by the two week post-surgery mark.
- If you are experiencing any of the following, call our office or the doctor on call immediately:
  - Fever greater than 100.4 °F
  - Chills
  - Shortness of breath
  - Excessive redness or swelling of incisions
  - Yellow (pus-like) or white drainage at incision sites
  - Bleeding that soaks your dressings and cannot be controlled by firm pressure
  - Pain not relieved by prescribed medications

How to reach your provider:

MyChart:
This is the easiest and quickest way to contact your provider. You may send a message anytime, and can include photos as needed.

By phone:
Weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Call the Upper Extremity Orthopaedic Clinic at 503-494-8645.

After business hours/weekend/holidays: Call the OHSU Hospital Operator at 503-494-8311 and ask to be connected to the on-call orthopaedic resident.

www.ohsu.edu/ortho
Follow-up appointments you should have scheduled:

- You will have your first post-operative appointment with our office approximately two weeks after your procedure with one of your surgeon’s Physician Assistants. Your staples will be removed at this appointment.

  Scheduled on:  
  __/__/__ at __:__am/pm

- You will either be scheduled for a physical therapy appointment at OHSU approximately two weeks after your procedure, or you will need to set up an appointment with an outside Physical Therapist to start approximately two weeks after your procedure.

  Scheduled on:  
  __/__/__ at __:__am/pm

- Your second post-operative appointment will be approximately six weeks after your procedure and will be with your surgeon. You will get x-rays at this appointment.

  Scheduled on:  
  __/__/__ at __:__am/pm

Please let our office know if you need to make any of these appointments.