

# Shoulder Arthroscopy with Rotator Cuff Repair Surgery Guide

## 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.
- 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.
- If you are experiencing any of the following, call our office or the doctor on call immediately:
  - o Fever greater than 100.4 °F
  - o Chills
  - o Shortness of breath
  - o Excessive redness or swelling of incisions
  - o Yellow (pus-like) or white drainage at incision sites
  - o Bleeding that soaks your dressings and cannot be controlled by firm pressure
  - o 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.

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[www.ohsu.edu/ortho](http://www.ohsu.edu/ortho)





## Activity

- No weight bearing with the surgical side until your first post-operative appointment, approximately two weeks after your procedure. Passive motion only, however it is OK to remove your sling when sitting if your upper arm stays in contact with your body.
- Once your block wears off, it is OK to gently use your elbow, wrist, and hand on the operative side but no lifting more than a pound or two.
- Immediately following your procedure, you may begin the passive range of motion exercises discussed with you by our office prior to surgery: pulley, pendulum, and stick exercises.
- When you can return to work is dependent upon the type of work you do. Please ask your surgeon for specific work restrictions.
- You can drive once you are fully weight-bearing and no longer taking narcotics.

## Wound Care

- Keep your wound covered by dressing for four days. After four days, you can remove the dressing and shower.
- No soaking or swimming until your wound has fully closed.

## Sling

- For the first two weeks after surgery please use the sling at all times, unless doing the given exercises, until you are seen at your first post-op appointment. After that, keep the sling on while out and about or unless clinically indicated.

## Physical Therapy

- Physical therapy to start approximately two weeks post-surgery after your first post-operative appointment with our clinic.
- Physical therapy can take place at OHSU, or with a Physical Therapist of your choice. Please let our office know where you are planning to go if outside of OHSU by your first post-op appointment.

## 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 sutures 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.**