



ANDREAS SAUERBREY, M.D.

## **Instructions following Carpometacarpal Arthroplasty**

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### **Follow up appointment:**

- Call **970 879-6663** to schedule your appointment next week in Steamboat, Craig or Rock Springs.
- Your sutures will be removed and you will be placed in a cotton cast which will stay on for 3 weeks.
- Your work restriction and return to work time frame can be discussed.

### **Diet:**

- Regular diet as tolerated.

### **Medication Regimen:**

- Use pain medicine as directed and as needed. You will usually be given Percocet or Norco for pain. These contain Tylenol as well as narcotic medicine.
- Refer to your prescription bottle for directions.
- You may take Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) in addition to your narcotic.
- DO NOT take additional Tylenol.
- Do not drive while taking narcotic pain medicine.
- Narcotic medications can be constipating so we recommend using Miralax or Milk of Magnesia as directed on the bottle.

### **Ice:**

- Icing the hand and wrist regularly can help with pain control and swelling.
- You may apply ice over the dressing for 20-30 minutes at a time.

### **Elevate:**

- Elevate the hand above the heart to help with swelling.

### **Activity:**

- You may bend and straighten the fingers to keep mobility. The thumb is splinted and you should not be moving the thumb.

### **Wound care:**

- Leave your dressing in place until your follow-up appointment next week. If the ACE wrap feels too tight, you may take the ACE wrap and re-wrap.

**Prophylaxis against blood clots:**

- To prevent the development of a blood clot, you will be given TED hose stockings.
- You should wear these for the first few days after surgery or until you are up walking around normally.
- If you have additional risk factors for developing a clot, you may be asked to take blood thinners such as aspirin or xarelto.

**You can expect the following:**

- Increased pain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day
- Throbbing pain after keeping the hand dependent
- Sometimes bruising on the forearm

**Call the doctor if any of the following are present:**

- Increased swelling or numbness
- Unrelenting pain
- Fever or chills
- Bleeding through the ACE wrap
- Difficulty breathing
- Inability to urinate
- Excessive nausea or vomiting

**If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us at 970-879-6663.**