



ANDREAS SAUERBREY, M.D.

Instruction following Total Shoulder Arthroplasty

**Andreas Sauerbrey, M.D.
Margo Boatner, PA-C**

Follow-up Appointment:

- Call **970 879-6663** to schedule your appointment next week in Steamboat, Craig or Rock Springs.
- Your staples will be removed and you will get a physical therapy prescription.
- 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:

- Ice regularly applied to the shoulder can help w/ pain control and swelling.
- You may apply ice over the dressing for 20-30 minutes at a time with ice pack from the hospital.

Activity:

- Passive motion is OK.
- You must not actively move the shoulder or you could disrupt the repair.
- You can use the arm for light duties such as dressing yourself and light desk work.
- No pushing, pulling or reaching out.
- The sling is provided for your protection and comfort.
- You will need to wear the sling when out of the house and at night for 4-6 weeks.

Exercise:

- The following exercises are recommended for the early post-operative period...
 - **Pendulum Exercise-** lean forward and let your arm dangle. Move it in circles, clockwise and counter clockwise, then side to side, then forward and back. Begin w/ 5-10

repetitions in each direction, 3 times a day. Gradually progress to 30 total repetitions, 3 times a day.

- **Gripping-** squeeze a soft sponge or softball in your operated hand for 30 repetitions, 3 times a day.
- **Elbow Range of Motion-** with the sling off and your arm at your side, let the elbow straighten then bend. Do this 10 times, 3 times a day.

Wound Care:

- Removes the dressing on the third day after surgery and shower.
- Place band aids over the staples.
- No soaking in a pool or hot tub until the incision is a clean scar and no scabs.
- Do not put any ointments on the wound such as Neosporin.

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 an aspirin daily or Lovenox.

You Can Expect the Following:

- Blood staining the dressing
- Bruising around the incision
- Increased pain on the second day
- Throbbing pain after keeping the arm dependent

Call the doctor if any of the following are present:

- Increased swelling or numbness
- Unrelenting pain
- Fever or chills
- Continuous drainage from a wound
- Continuous bleeding from a wound
- 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.