



Total Shoulder Arthroplasty

Discharge Instructions-

Comfort

- Discomfort increases 1-2 days after surgery due to the nerve block wearing off (if a nerve block was performed). This can be helped by oral pain medication. It is safe and normal.
- **Cold therapy** – This will greatly reduce pain and will help with swelling for the first 3-5 days after surgery, as well as following PT sessions
 - Some patients may be provided an ice machine to go home with
 - This is dependent on the type of surgery you had and insurance approval
 - If you were not provided with an ice machine, regular ice pack/ bag of ice can be used
 - You may use ice 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off, as often as you wish
 - Always keep a cloth barrier, such as a towel, between the cold and your skin

Medications

Your post op medications were sent to the pharmacy we have on file prior to surgery

- Please reach out to our office if you need a refill of your medication, preferably, 24 hours prior to your last dose to allow time to fill

1. Aspirin 81 mg: For anticoagulation to help prevent blood clots

- If you are >19yo, you must take one 81mg aspirin once a day for two weeks Do not take aspirin if you are <19yo

2. Meloxicam 15 mg: For antiinflammation to help pain and swelling

- Take once a day for four weeks as tolerated for post-op inflammation

3. Zofran (Ondansetron) 4 mg: For nausea – It is common to experience nausea from anesthesia and/ or pain medication in the first few days post op

- You can take 1 tablet every 8 hours as needed for nausea
- It is a dissolving tablet that is to be placed on your tongue – allow it to dissolve, and swallow

4. Norco (Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen) 5-325 mg: For pain – This is a narcotic medication for pain, to be taken AS NEEDED

- Take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours as needed
- After 1-3 days, you can begin to space out the dosing/ discontinue the medication, transitioning to a step-down regimen of Tylenol and ibuprofen as soon as pain allows
- Common side effects such constipation, nausea, and cognitive impairment may occur
- It is very common to use the pain medication only at night to help sleep better or around the time of therapy so you can participate more comfortably

Other medications: For constipation – over the counter remedies such as Colace (Docusate Sodium) or Miralax as needed

- Both the anesthesia and the pain medication can cause constipation

Activity

*** You will start PT at 2-3 weeks post op***

- You may be discharged with your shoulder in a sling. You can use a pillow to support your shoulder to keep it at 30-45 degrees of abduction. Use the sling and pillow at night for the first 4 weeks post-op.



- No forward flexion > 140 degrees or external rotation beyond 40 degrees for 6w
- No internal rotation against resistance for 12w
- Periodic standing and walking is encouraged to decrease the risk of blood clots.
 - If seated, perform ankle pumps and circles to promote lower extremity blood flow.
- Physical therapy usually begins after your first post-op visit (2-3 weeks).
 - Limit lifting with the surgical arm including no lifting any objects the first 4 weeks post-op, and no objects heavier than a coffee cup for the first 6 weeks post-op
 - Through physical therapy, you will slowly be progressed with motion and strength
- Driving – No driving while still wearing the sling (at least 4 weeks post-op)
 - Please bear in mind we want you to be safe and comfortable when you return to driving - this is a sliding scale depending on your progress.

Wound Care

The bandages were applied under sterile conditions in the OR, and we want to avoid bacteria near the incision

- Your incisions are covered by several absorbent pads, gauze, and foam dressings, it is important to keep these clean and dry
 - Do not remove or get the bandages wet for the first 3 days after surgery—if you need to shower in this time, keep dressings covered with plastic wrap/ bag/ etc. Alternatively, just sponge bath only, avoiding surgical area
- After 3 days, you can take off the dressing to check on the incision. The incisions are covered with steri-strips (small bandages), **leave those on until your first follow up visit and they will be removed at that time**, along with any sutures
- You can replace the dressings with a light wrap/ Ace wrap/ elastic bandage, otherwise leave the steri-strips open and exposed to air [and maintain using the sling]
 - You can shower normally, however we advise covering the steri- strips with a waterproof band aid, if they do get wet or start to peel off- it is ok to remove them and replace with a regular band aid, to continue covering the incision
 - Do not use any topical lotions, ointments, or creams on the incision, try to avoid touching the surgical area
 - The best thing for your incision is keep them covered, and as clean and dry as possible
 - If you have any concerns about the incision (redness, draining, swelling, pain), **you can call us and send us a picture of the incision (630)-377-1188 [Press 2 to leave a voicemail]**

Diet

- You may eat anything you like, but it's advisable to choose light, easily digestible foods and to drink plenty of water the day after surgery to avoid any nausea/ upset stomach

When to call your physician

If you require immediate attention, or feel that you are having a medical emergency please go to the emergency department for urgent work up

- You develop a temperature over 100.3° F degrees
- You have any drainage at the incision site 5 days or later after surgery
- The surgical area becomes hot to the touch, red, intolerably painful, or swells suddenly. (Note- some warmth, pain, and swelling are normal)
- You have persistent pain and / or swelling in your calf.
- You have any additional questions or concerns. We are happy to talk to you at any time!

Important contact information

Physician's office phone # (630)-377-1188 [Press 2 to leave a voicemail]



Please note- We are either in clinic or surgery and not answering calls in real time – Please leave a detailed message with our clinical voicemail line and we will return all voicemails within one business day. Additionally, the call center can connect you to the PA on call, however, please reserve this option for urgent inquiries only

Oak Brook- 2425 W. 22nd St. Suite 207A Oak Brook, IL 60523 P: (630) 377-1188 F: (630) 377-7360

Little Village- 2859 S. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60623 P:(630) 377-1188 F: (630) 377-7360

St. Charles- 2900 Foxfield Rd. Suite 102 St. Charles, IL 60179 P: (630) 377-1188 F: (630) 377-7360

Physical Therapy protocol

Start PT at 2-3 weeks post op

- 0-2 weeks post-op
 - Continue sling at all times except for hygiene
 - Educate on sling removal and application
 - Return to ADLs
 - Continue cryo cuff/ice, 8-12h/day 2w
 - Exercises **[see last 2 pages for Early shoulder ROM instructions]**
 - Pendulum shoulder exercises
 - Passive and active-assisted ROM
 - Limit forward flexion to 140 and external rotation to 40
 - Wrist and elbow ROM
 - Ice after exercises x 15m
 - Criteria for advancement
 - No active signs of inflammation
 - No pain with pendulum exercises
- 2-6 weeks post-op
 - Begin to d/c sling when sitting with arm at the side, continue to wear when sleeping
 - Exercises
 - Begin AROM, continue passive and active-assisted ROM
 - Limit forward flexion to 140 and external rotation to 40
 - Gentle isometric strengthening exercises EXCEPT IR
 - Manual glenohumeral and scapular mobilization
 - Aquatic shoulder therapy
 - Stationary bike but arm must be in sling—NO WB through arm
 - Periscapular muscle strengthening
 - Wrist and elbow ROM
 - Criteria for advancement
 - Full AROM except for limiting forward elevation to 140 and external rotation to 40
 - Full use of shoulder for all ADLs without pain
 - Work
 - Can return to work with no heavy lifting and no overhead
- 6-12w post-op
 - Can d/c sling
 - Exercises
 - Theraband strengthening exercises with progression to free weights for all planes except IR
 - Increase repetitions before increasing weight
 - NO resisted IR for 12w



- Begin overhead activity
 - Aquatic therapy for shoulder strength at low resistance
 - Putting and chipping for golf
 - May begin running
 - May begin driving
 - Criteria for advancement
 - Full AROM
- 12w-6mo post-op
 - Exercises
 - Begin IR strengthening
 - Sport-specific strengthening exercises
 - Low-speed throwing, controlled racket sports, non-contact hockey at 3mo
 - Competitive throwing, racket sports, contact sports at 6mo
 - Progressive return to golf—progress to full swings with all clubs at 6mo

Early Post-Operative Shoulder Home Exercises

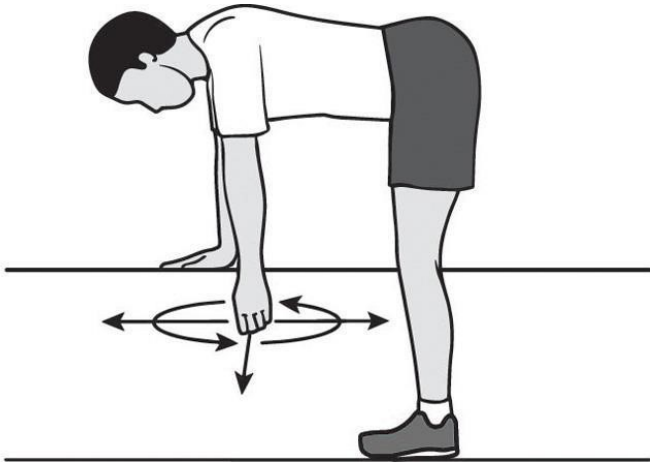
Regular exercises to restore range of motion and flexibility to your shoulder and a gradual return to your everyday activities are important for your full recovery after shoulder surgery. It is recommended that you do independent exercise for at least 10 to 15 minutes, 2 or 3 times a day during your early recovery period. The exercises detailed below should be completed daily as a part of your recovery routine.

Pendulums (start at day 1 post op)

- Bend forward 90° at the waist, placing your uninvolved hand on a table for support.
- Rock your body in a circular pattern to move your arm clockwise 10 times, then counterclockwise 10 times. Keep your arm relaxed during the exercise. The circle your hand is making should be about 1 to 2 feet wide. The circular pendular movement should occur through your shoulder joint.



- Do 3 sessions a day.

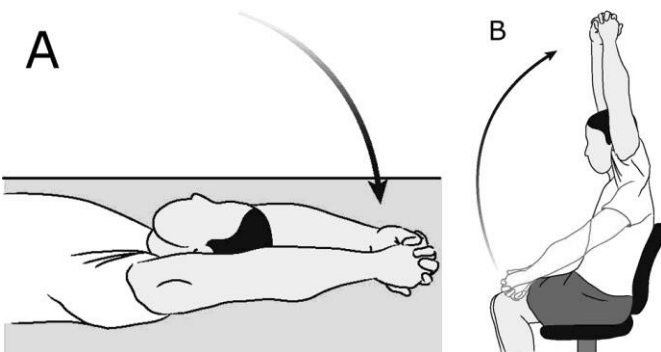


Shoulder Forward Elevation (Assisted) (start at day 20 post op)

(This exercise can be done either lying down (A) or sitting down (B).)

- Clasp your hands together and lift your arms above your head. Keep your elbows as straight as possible. Maintain the elevation for 10 to 20 seconds.
- Slowly lower your arms.
- Repeat 10 to 20 times per session. (do not push past mild discomfort, 3-4/10 pain)

- Do 3 sessions a day.
- Slowly increase the elevation of your arms as the days progress, using pain as your guide.





Walk Up Exercise (start day 20 post op)

- With your elbow straight, use your fingers to "crawl" up a wall or door frame as far as possible. Hold for 10 to 20 seconds.
- Repeat 5 to 10 times per session. (do not push past mild discomfort, 3-4/10 pain)
- Do 3 sessions a day.

