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Dr. Lowry's Post-Op Instructions

Hip Antibiotic Spacer for Infection

Patient:

1. To decrease the risk of a blood clot, you will be given thigh-high compression stockings & prescribed a daily aspirin; both are to be used for four weeks. If you are at higher risk of a blood clot, then you will be given an injectable of either Arixtra SQ or Lovenox SQ x 4-6wks.
2. To improve your bone strength, you will be prescribed Vitamin D & Calcium supplements.
3. Dressings: keep a sterile, island dressing (preferably an antibacterial material like Aquacel AG Surgical, Therabond, Primapore, etc) over all incisions for at least 2 weeks. **Do NOT change unless there is >50% strike-through.** If your facility does not have antibacterial dressings, then the next best option is to apply a thin layer of bacitracin ointment over the incision with each dressing change. Your nurse will educate you on proper dressing management. ****Ideally, an Aquacel dressing requires only ONE change after seven days & you can shower with it on.****
4. Apply two properly sealed ice packs to your hip dressings for 72 hours after your surgery. This will help with your pain/
5. Use your crutches or walker for **Partial Weight-Bearing** on your operative leg. The antibiotic spacer is not strong enough (nor is the infected bone) to hold your body weight.
6. Your antibiotics will be managed by your infectious disease physician, usually for 6 weeks.
7. We will plan for re-implantation of your new hip in 8 weeks if your infection labs improve.
8. Please make an appointment to see me 10-14 days after your surgery for a wound check & likely removal of your suture or staples.

If you have any other questions or concerns please call my clinic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "J. K. Lowry".

Dr. Jason K. Lowry, MD FAAOS