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Dr. Lowry's Post-Op Instructions

Total Knee Revision

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.**** Replace the compression stocking up to the thigh, over the dressing on your knee.
4. You will also have a "cryo cuff" or "polar care" placed over your dressings. This is a device that circulates cold water around the knee to keep down the initial swelling & pain after surgery. Your nurse will instruct you & your family on how to properly use it. **NEVER PLACE IT DIRECTLY ONTO YOUR SKIN. THIS WILL CAUSE BURNS.** If you are not given one of these devices, then simply apply two properly sealed ice packs to your knee for 72 hours after your surgery.
5. Use your crutches or walker with full weight on your leg. You will not hurt your new knee by walking on your leg. Please perform the exercises provided to you by your Physical Therapist at home 3 times/day for 15-20 minutes each. You will start physical therapy right away at either a rehab facility, skilled nursing facility or at home.
6. Gaining full extension of your knee is critical right after your surgery. **PLEASE AVOID PLACING ANY PILLOW UNDER YOUR KNEE.** A pillow under your knee may feel better, BUT it comes at a cost: you can lose extension, develop a flexion contracture & may need either a manipulation or another surgery.
7. Please make an appointment within 10-14 days after your surgery.

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

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Jason K. Lowry, MD FAAOS