



# Orthopaedic Specialty Institute

## Medical Group of Orange County

Robert Grumet, MD

### POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS CLAVICLE FRACTURE

#### 1. Day of surgery: Instructions Immediate Post-Op

- A. Diet: as tolerated
- B. Ice pack to shoulder every 1 to 2 hours, while awake, for 20 minutes.
- C. Pain medication as needed every 4-6 hours as needed.
- D. Remain in your sling at all times. Avoid any use of the surgical arm to allow for healing.
- E. Make sure that you have a post-op appointment scheduled at least 10 days to 14 days after surgery.

#### 2. First Post-Operative Day

- A. Continue ice pack every 1 to 2 hours while awake.
- B. Pain medication as needed.
- C. You may take arm from sling and begin moving your arm gently. Begin Codman's exercises / pendulum exercises. Avoid the position of apprehension – do not raise your elbow to shoulder level. Keep your elbow at your side.
- D. Remain in the sling at all times, except for showering. You may remove the sling to bend and straighten elbow and wrist ONLY, DO NOT use shoulder.

#### 3. Second Post-Operative Day until Return Visit

- A. Continue ice pack as needed.
- B. You may remove your bandage from the surgical area and shower this evening. You may remove the large bulky gauze dressings, but DO NOT remove steri strips (thin white strips under the gauze) from incision sites - these keep incisions closed and stitches in place. You will need to keep your incision site(s) dry by covering wound with water-proof bandages (these can be purchased at your local pharmacy) when taking a shower. Keep your arm relaxed at your side while showering (as if still in the sling). Use your non-operative arm for personal hygiene and dressing activities.

**NOTE:** Your shoulder will be very swollen. It may take a week or longer for this to resolve. It is also common to notice burning/aching around the shoulder as the swelling resolves. If excessive bleeding occurs, please notify our office. Clear (or light yellow) fluid drainage is normal for the first 3-4 days.

#### 4. Suture Removal

Your sutures need to be removed 10-14 days from surgery at your first post op visit.

#### For Return Appointments

Your 1st post-op visit will need to be scheduled for 10-14 days after surgery.

If you have any problems or questions please call our office at (714) 937-2113 and ask for Elyse during office hours 8:00-5:00. If you have a problem after hours the answering service will contact Dr. Grumet.

Any activity that requires precise thinking and accuracy must be avoided for the first twelve hours after surgery and while taking pain medication, which includes operating machinery and/or driving a vehicle.