

Grant H Garcia, MD

2409 North 45th Street,
Seattle, WA 98103
Wallingford: 206-633-8100
Ballard: 206-784-8833



SHOULDER WOUND DEBRIDEMENT DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

PAIN MANAGEMENT

- **INTERSCALENE NERVE BLOCK** - A combination of local anesthetics are used to numb your shoulder and arm so your brain will not receive any pain signals during and immediately after surgery. The length of effect varies from person to person, but the block usually provides 8-12 hours of pain relief. You will notice a gradual increase in pain as this begins to wear off at which time you can increase the frequency of the oral pain medications as needed.
- **ORAL PAIN MEDICATIONS**
Some pain, swelling, and bruising is expected after surgery. It is usually most severe for the first 2-3 days. The following strategies are especially important during this time. Try to anticipate an increase in pain when the nerve block wears off, usually within 12-24 hours.
- **Medication** — You may have received a prescription for narcotic and/ or anti-inflammatory medication. Please take them as instructed. The medication is most helpful if taken 30-45 minutes prior to any planned activity or exercise. Try to anticipate a return of pain after the nerve block has worn off by taking medication before going to bed.
 - If needed, you can take an over-the-counter anti-inflammatory in addition to your pain medication. *Do not take these if you are on blood thinners or have a history of ulcers.*
 - Ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) – Maximum of 800 mg every 8 hours
 - Naproxen (Aleve) – 1-2 tablets every 8-12 hours

SIDE EFFECTS OF THESE MEDICATIONS INCLUDE DROWSINESS AND CONSTIPATION. **YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE OR DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE TAKING THESE PAIN MEDICATIONS.**

- **ANTIBIOTICS**
 - Cephalexin 500 mg
 - One tab by mouth every six hours x 10 days
 - Take until gone
 - Sulfamethoxazole 800 mg – Trimethoprim 160 mg
 - One tab by mouth every 12 hours x 10 days
- **OTHER MEDICATIONS**
 - Scopolomine Patch
 - This is a patch placed on the skin behind your ear pre-operatively to help prevent nausea and vomiting. You can remove the patch tomorrow morning unless you are still nauseated, in which case you may leave it on for up to 3 days. Remove immediately if you begin experiencing eye pain, dizziness, or a rapid pulse.
 - Stool Softeners
 - Post-operative constipation can result due a combination of inactivity, anesthesia, and pain medication. To help prevent this, you should increase your water and fiber intake. Physical activity such as walking will also help stimulate the bowel. If you do experience constipation, you may try taking a stool softener such as Metamucil powder or Senokot.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- **SLING:** as needed for pain

- You may wear the sling today while the nerve block is still working and tomorrow if needed for comfort. After that, you do not need to wear the sling at all and may use your arm as tolerated. Avoid heavy activity.
- **We recommend that you DO NOT drive during the period of time your arm is in the sling**
- **ICE MACHINE**
 - Recommend using **1 hour on, 1 hour off for the first 2 days after surgery while awake**
 - Do not place pad directly on skin – make sure there is a barrier such as a t-shirt or towel
 - After the first 2 days you may use the ice machine as needed for comfort
 - If you did not receive the ice machine, you may use ice packs on the surgical area 20-30 minutes every 1-2 hours

WOUND CARE & BATHING

- **BANDAGE**
 - Your incision is closed with sutures and is covered with gauze and an ACE wrap. Leave this on for two days, after which time you may remove it to shower.
 - The incision needs to stay dry and covered and in the shower until the sutures are removed, which will likely be at 7-14 days post-op. Waterproof bandages work very well for this.
 - Cover the incisions with a new bandage once daily – you may continue using clean gauze along with the ACE wrap.
 - Keep the incisions clean and dry – do not put any alcohol, lotion, or ointment on the incisions.
 - Do not submerge the incisions in a bath, pool, or hot tub until the sutures are removed **and** the wound is healed.
- **FOLLOW-UP**
 - Please call our office (numbers listed below) to make a follow-up appointment. We will check your incision at that time and discuss when the sutures will be removed.
- Keep an eye on your incisions for **signs of infection**:
 - Excessive drainage that is soaking through your dressing, especially if it is pus-like
 - Redness that is spreading out from the edges of your incision
 - Fever or increased warmth around the surgical area

CONTACTING OUR OFFICE

EMERGENCIES**

*Contact Dr. Garcia at 206-633-8100 if any of the following are present:

- Painful swelling or numbness (note that some swelling and numbness is normal)
- Unrelenting pain
- Fever (over 101° - it is normal to have a low grade fever for the first day or two following surgery) or chills
- Redness around incisions
- Color change in foot or ankle
- Continuous drainage or bleeding from incision (a small amount of drainage is expected)
- Difficulty breathing
- Excessive nausea/vomiting
- Calf pain

**If you have an emergency after office hours or on the weekend, contact the same office number (206-633-8100) and you will be connected to our page service – this will contact Dr. Garcia or one of his physician assistants. If he is unavailable. Do NOT call the hospital or surgicenter.

**If you have an emergency that requires immediate attention, proceed to the nearest emergency room.

FOLLOW-UP CARE/QUESTIONS

*If you do not already have a post-operative appointment scheduled, please contact the office

immediately at 206-633-8100 to speak our Administrative Assistant or visit our website www.grantgarciamd.com

*Typically post-operative appointments are made for 10-14 days following the date of surgery

*If you have any further questions, contact the office directly.

THERAPY

- You do not need any formal physical therapy at this time. Once the sling is discontinued at 1-2 days post-op you may use your arm for normal day-to-day activities, but avoid any heavy lifting or resisted activity until your follow-up appointment.