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Post Op Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction Instructions

- 1. The Brace needs to be worn at all times including sleeping. The brace needs to be locked straight when walking.
- 2. The knee should be iced $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour off throughout the first day and at least 3x a day after the first initial post-operative day.
- 3. If you have a cryocuff (ice machine), this can be used continuously for the first day until 11pm and then ½ hour on and off after 11pm if you awaken with pain. After the first day this should be used on ½ hour on and ½ hour off at least 3x a day. Always place a small towel or ace wrap between your skin and the cryocuff.
- 4. Pain medication will be prescribed. If your pain does not require a narcotic pain medication take Tylenol (as long as you do not have a history of Tylenol allergy or a medical problem where Tylenol is contraindicated, i.e liver disease)
- 5. Pain medication may be constipating. If you are prone to this you may take an over the counter stool softener such as Senokot.
- 6. Never take NSAID's for the first two months after surgery except for the first two days after surgery if needed for pain. This includes Advil, Motrin, Naprosyn, Aleve, Mobic, etc.
- 7. Follow up the day after surgery for a dressing change. Usually you will be able to shower after the first dressing change.
- 8. Do isometric quadriceps strengthen exercises daily, doing 4 sets of twenty repetitions and make sure your knee goes completely straight while performing these exercises.
- 9. Flexion exercises (knee bending) may be started and performed 3x a day using the other leg for support.
- 10. Therapy is usually expected to be started the first week after surgery.

Please Take: Vitamin C 500mg 3x/day for 4 weeks & Vitamin D 50mcg/day for 4 weeks