



**DAVID B. COHEN, M.D.**

84 North Main Street Bld#2 Branford, CT 06405 203.483.2024

**CALL OUR OFFICE AT 203.407.3518 FOR FOLLOW-UP OR QUESTIONS**

DISCHARGE/HOME INSTRUCTIONS  
Subacromial Decompression/Distal Clavicle Resection

Patient Name:

**Follow up appointment:**

- Call your doctor later today or tomorrow to arrange to be seen in 10-14 days.
- Connecticut Orthopaedic Specialists Surgical Center wishes you a speedy recovery. Please note the following guidelines for your recovery period at home:

**DIET:**

- Your regular diet may be resumed today. Start with liquids. Drink additional fluids today.
- Avoid alcohol for 24 hours and while you are taking your pain pills.

**MEDICATIONS:** It is normal to experience some discomfort after surgery. Take medication as prescribed.

- Pain medication may cause constipation. Use an over-the-counter stool softener (ie. Colace) regularly.
- Eat something before taking medication to avoid stomach upset.
- Your pain medication is Percocet (oxycodone) or Vicodin (hydrocodone). Take 1-2 when you are aware of soreness and then every 3-4 hours as needed. Use Naprosyn (an anti-inflammatory) for 10 days after surgery. Take one pill in the morning, one in the evening with food.

**DRESSING: KEEP YOUR DRESSING DRY AND CLEAN.**

- You may experience drainage. **Do Not Remove Original Bandage Until Directed Below.** Reinforce as needed.
- Call your surgeon if you think it is too much.
- Remove dressing in 3 days. **Do not remove tape strips** on surgical site. Apply band aids.
- Please do not use bacitracin or other creams on the wounds.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Do not drive, operate machinery, or sign legal documents. You may be forgetful due to today's medications.
- Rest today. Get up every 2-3 hours during the day. You may experience light-headedness and sleepiness following your surgery. We encourage you to have someone with you for 24 hours.
- To bathroom with assistance. Gradually resume light activity.



- Your arm will be in sling. You may remove this tomorrow and begin range of motion exercises. You may use the sling for comfort only when in public places.
- You should begin physical therapy within the next few days. Call our office if you do not have a prescription.
- Apply ice for minimum of one week while awake (30 minutes on, 30 minutes off). If you have an ice machine, you should use this as much as possible. You may keep it on constantly. You should use it after physical therapy as well.
- May shower on post-operative day 3 but keep the incision sites covered with either plastic wrap secured with tape or waterproof band-aids. Do not remove the tapes covering the incisions. No baths, hot-tubs, or swimming.
- Use incentive spirometer 10 – 15 times every hour while awake for 24 hours.
- You may feel more comfortable sleeping in a recliner or sleep propped up with pillows, with a pillow supporting your elbow. This will prevent excessive pulling on the suture line.

**NOTIFY YOUR SURGEON IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR PROGRESS OR IF:**

- Dressing is too tight.
- Fever above 101°F
- Excessive swelling
- Continued nausea/vomiting
- Uncontrolled pain
- Unable to urinate
- Excessive bleeding
- Infection (red, drainage and/or sore)
- If coldness, numbness or change in color of fingers/toes or skin (hand may be numb for 24 hours after nerve block)

**IF YOU CANNOT REACH YOUR DOCTOR AND NEED HELP OR ADVICE RIGHT AWAY, GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM NEAREST YOU. IN THE EVENT OF A TRUE EMERGENCY CALL 911.**

I (Patient/Escort) have read these instructions. I understand them and have no questions at this time.

\_\_\_\_\_, M.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient / Escort

**MD OFFICE NUMBERS**

- Branford (203) 483.2509
- Milford (203) 882.3373
- Guilford (203) 453.6340
- Orange (203) 795.4784
- Hamden (203) 407.3500
- Wallingford (203) 265.1800