

Post-operative Instructions: ORIF Metacarpal Fracture

Dressing:

Please keep your dressing clean, dry, and intact until you follow up. It should be covered with a plastic bag and kept dry and out of the water while bathing.

Activity:

No lifting or weight bearing on your operative hand. Please elevate your hand to help minimize swelling. It is okay to apply ice to the operative site to reduce pain and swelling, but please do not remove your bandage. You may **gently** move the fingers that are left out of your bandage and you may use them for light activity, such as typing/lpad. Do not use the injured finger(s) that are included in your bandage, and **do not lift anything heavier than your dinner fork** with your hand.

Pain control:

You may be given a prescription for narcotic pain medication. Please use the narcotic medication as sparingly as possible to avoid trouble with side effects (nausea, constipation, dizziness, addiction). If you are able to take anti-inflammatory medication based on your medical history, you can take Advil, motrin, Aleve, or ibuprofen in addition to the narcotic pain medication to get extra pain relief if needed. As your pain decreases, please wean yourself off of the narcotics as soon as possible by substituting over the counter medications instead (ie- Advil, Motrin, Tylenol, or Aleve). For constipation, you can take 300 mg of colace a day (colace is an over the counter stool softener).

Follow up:

Please call the office to schedule an appointment for about 5-7 days after surgery.

Return to work/school:

You may return to light activity at work/school once you no longer need narcotic pain medication, but no gym and no weight bearing activities are allowed.

For questions, please call the office: 301-657-9876