

Post-operative Instructions: Extensor tendon repair

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 reduce swelling. You can put ice packs on your hand to help with pain control. You may gently move your fingers that are left out of your bandage, but do not lift anything heavier than your dinner fork.

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 with Dr. Kitay for ~7 days after surgery. You will need to start hand therapy asap.

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