

Toufic R. Jildeh, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Team Physician - Michigan State University
Olympic Team Physician for US Ski and Snowboard

Dr. Jildeh - Post Op Instructions: Total Shoulder Replacement

Dr. Toufic R. Jildeh, MD

- First PT Appointment:** the day after your surgery
- First Post Op Appointment:** _____ at Michigan State University _____ for suture removal, incision check, and range of motion assessment
- We recommend PT at least 2-3x/week for 6-8 weeks after surgery Please make an appointment with your local PT of your choice ASAP, preferably starting the day after surgery. If you need to find a PT, use physicaltherapists.com for a city or state directory.

MEDICATIONS PRESCRIBED FOR AFTER SURGERY:

FOR PAIN RELIEF:

- Start by taking Tylenol for pain relief, however, use caution when taking **TYLENOL** or other acetaminophen products while taking Lorcet as it already contain acetaminophen. Do NOT exceed more than 3000mg of Tylenol per day.
- You have been provided the following pain medication after your surgery. Wean off of narcotics as soon as symptoms allow. You may take these medications with the Zofran and the blood thinning medication. You may resume all of your normal, at home, prescribed medications unless told otherwise by the surgical team.
 - **OXYCODONE 5 mg:** this is a short-acting medication for pain. You should take 1 or 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours AS NEEDED. If you are not in pain, you should not take this medication. Try to wean down your use of this drug as soon as symptoms allow. *If 2 tablets every 4 hours are not relieving all your pain please call our office. See last page for narcotic information.*
 - **LORCET 5 mg (hydrocodone 5mg and acetaminophen 325mg):** this is a short-acting medication for pain. You should take 1 or 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours AS NEEDED. *If 2 tablets every 4 hours are not relieving all your pain please call our office.* THIS MEDICATION CONTAINS TYLENOL (each tablet= 325mg of Tylenol). Use caution when taking additional Tylenol. MAX TYLENOL DOSE PER DAY IS 3000mg.
 - **TRAMADOL 50mg:** This is a short acting medicine for pain that is still considered a narcotic, but is less potent. Take 1-2 tablets every 6 hours as needed for pain.

FOR NAUSEA:

- **ZOFRAN (Ondansetron) 4mg Tablet** - this medication is for nausea or vomiting. Place 1 tablet under the tongue every 8 hours as needed for nausea. If you are not nauseous, you do not need to take this medication. Please call our office if you still experience vomiting despite taking this medication.

FOR ANTI-COAGULATION (Blood Thinners):

You have been prescribed an anticoagulation medication. This medication is taken to prevent a blood clot from developing, which is a possible complication after any surgery. This medication is required after all surgeries. You must **finish the entire prescription** of anticoagulation medication.

- **ASPIRIN 81 mg:** This is a mild blood thinner. Please take 1 tablet twice daily for 4 – 6 weeks: starting the day after surgery, no matter what kind of procedure you had. Finish the entire prescription bottle, even if you are feeling better.
- **ELIQUIS 2.5mg (apixaban):** Usually this blood thinning medicine is taken 2x per day for 4 – 6 weeks. Do not take aspirin while taking this medication. This is an oral medication for patients with a higher risk, such as those flying for more than 3 hours after surgery, those with a personal history of clots, cancer, or on certain types of medications.
 - Take Eliquis on the day before, the day of, and the day after your flight. Do not take aspirin on the days you take Eliquis, but resume the aspirin as prescribed after you finish the course of this medication.
- **LOVENOX 40mg(enoxaparin) injection:** This is a daily injection. Inject 40mg subcutaneously daily or the day before travelling. Do not take aspirin while taking this medication.

OTHER MEDICATIONS (Rx)

- **ROBAXIN 500mg (methocarbamol):** This temporary medication may be used for any muscle spasm pain you have associated with your surgery. Take 1 tablet 3x/day or as needed for any pain associated with muscle spasms.
- **OTHER:** _____

OTHER MEDICATIONS TO CONSIDER: (you may buy these over the counter, without a prescription)

Toufic R. Jildeh, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Team Physician - Michigan State University
Olympic Team Physician for US Ski and Snowboard

- **TYLENOL:** Some pain medications contain **Tylenol**, including Norco, Lorcet, and Percocet. Oxycodone and Dilaudid **DO NOT** contain **Tylenol**, and it is recommended to *add in Tylenol for pain control if needed*. This can be taken as 325-600mg every 4 hours. You may take Tylenol with narcotics or alternate them. The maximum dose for Tylenol per day is 3000mg.
- **MIRALAX, COLACE, SENNA OR DOCUSATE:** These are over-the-counter mild laxatives and stool softeners for prevention of constipation. We suggest beginning this the day after surgery if you are taking narcotics. Please call the office if you have not had a bowel movement for three days after your surgery.
- **BENADRYL:** Itching can be common when taking narcotics. Take this as needed for any itching symptoms. It may also be used with Melatonin for a sleep aid if you have any issues or discomforts with sleeping post op, as it may cause drowsiness.

ANTIBIOTICS:

After a joint replacement, you may need to take antibiotics prior to certain medical procedures in the future to prevent infection. Please contact your primary care provider or our office:

- before going to a dentist for anything besides a routine cleaning or filling,
- before having bladder or colon procedures (such as colonoscopy or cystoscopy),
- before surgeries that let bacteria into your blood stream, such as bowel or urinary tract procedures,
- if you get a bacterial infection on your skin, or pneumonia

You may only need one preventative dose of antibiotic just prior to a procedure to be effective, usually for one year after your surgery only.

DRESSING/BANDAGE CHANGES:

- Please wait until the first post-operative appointment and we will take off your dressing. These were placed using sterile technique in the operating room, and we prefer to maintain the sterile environment.
- Do not pull on any sutures that are visible.
- It is very important that you **leave the last layer of bandage on your skin**; this layer is made of “Steri-Strips”, which are the white pieces of tape adhered directly to your skin. These should stay on until your first post-operative appointment with Dr. Jildeh, 10-14 days after your surgery.
 - You may GENTLY clean around the Steri-Strips with a warm washcloth and Dial antibacterial soap to remove any dried blood, or iodine solution used to clean your operative area prior to surgery. Do NOT scrub the incision area.
 - Do NOT put any oil, Neosporin, hydrogen peroxide, or lotion on your incision.
 - Do NOT submerge your incision in any bath or hot tub for 3-4 weeks after surgery.
- You may notice sutures/stitches on your incision, these may be black or they may be clear, like fishing line. These will be removed by Dr. Jildeh’s team at your first post-op appointment, or if you are following up elsewhere, they may be removed by your physical therapist or another physician 10-14 days after surgery.
- After you have cleaned the incision area, you may re-cover the incisions (with the Steri-Strips still in place) with an OpSite Bandage that was given to you in post-op. Several sizes of OpSites have been provided, choose the best one that fits your needs. To place the OpSite, peel the paper off of one side to reveal the sticky tape, then place this over your incision. Then you may remove the top layer of paper from the OpSite to reveal the clear tape adhered to your skin.
 - You may shower with these OpSites covering your incision. Once the OpSite appears wrinkled, dirty, or old, you may peel it off and replace it with another one. *We recommend changing the OpSite every 1-3 days.*
 - To shower, we recommend sitting down, or getting a metal/plastic fold out chair to place in your shower (available at WalMart for <\$15. We also recommend getting a non-slip mat for your bath tub). Before you turn the water on, sit down on the chair in the shower, remove any brace or sling that you are required to wear (as they are not water proof), and while safely seated, allow the water to roll over your operative area, protected by the OpSites. Once you have finished bathing, pat the incision area dry, replace the OpSites as needed, and then put your brace or sling back on.
- Some signs to look for that may be of concern are an incision that is very red and very painful, leaking thick yellow or cloudy fluid, has surrounding redness, is still bleeding, or smells foul. Any of these symptoms with a high fever is reason to call our office.
 - Small amounts of clear fluid or dried blood is normal, as is bruising and discoloration.
- **If you were given a NERVE BLOCK or catheter** pre operatively and you have any issues with it, including leakage, pump malfunctioning, catheter tip falling out, etc, then please call the phone number provided on the last page of this packet (Acute Pain Services)

OTHER GENERAL SURGERY INFORMATION

ICE: Swelling and bruising is normal after surgery because fluids are used during surgery. Continuous icing will help to decrease swelling and pain. It is best to **ice at least 5-6 times a day for 20-30 minutes**. It is very important to always have a protective cloth layer between the ice and your skin. You may use ice bags, frozen wraps, frozen peas or a NICE or Game Ready unit (an ice/compression machine). If

Toufic R. Jildeh, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Team Physician - Michigan State University
Olympic Team Physician for US Ski and Snowboard

you have received a NICE machine and have any questions regarding its use, please call the number provided with the machine. We recommended not using the compression function until 3-4 days after surgery.

DRIVING: Please do not drive until you are evaluated in the office after surgery or until you are off narcotics. You are considered an impaired driver following surgery, and if you choose to drive, your insurance may not cover any accidents that occur.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: This is dependent on your injury and specific procedure. You will be given specific protocol after your surgery (included in the white surgery folder). Please begin therapy at a facility of your choice as soon as possible following surgery (within 2-3 days) and bring this folder and its contents with you to the visits.

ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS/BRACE/SLING: If you are placed in a sling, it is extremely important to use as directed and make sure you always have the brace on when ambulating (walking). It is important that you follow all instructions regarding activity restrictions as they are intended to promote healing and prevent complications. You may take the brace/sling off if you need to change the bandages, change clothes, or shower (be extra cautious!), or if you are sitting. We recommend wearing the sling even when sleeping unless told otherwise by our team.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COMPLICATIONS: Although rare, the following are a list of concerns you should be aware of:

- **Infection** – increased pain not relieved with medication, *fever* >100°, chills, redness, swelling or drainage from incision.
- **Blood Clot** – calf pain, swelling, or tenderness (described as throbbing pressure that worsens), shortness of breath or chest pain.

REASONS TO CALL:

- >100° Fever, persistent night chills or sweats
- Redness, swelling, or warmth around the incisions, non-clear drainage from the incision or severe increased incisional pain
- Severe pain not relieved by medications
- Calf swelling, redness, painful to touch, pressure sensations
- Chest pain, difficulty breathing, or coughing up blood
- Inability to have a bowel movement after 3 days
- Inability to urinate after 1 day

If any of these concerns occur after-hours, please call the on-call physician, or go to your local ER!

NARCOTIC INFORMATION

Narcotics are a class of medication used for pain relief. These include the following medications:

(More Potent)---- **Hydromorphone/Dilaudid** ----**Oxycodone**----**Hydrocodone/Lorcet**----**Tramadol**----(Less Potent)

Narcotics may be necessary after surgery due to the pain associated with surgical procedures. Narcotics are prescribed to help provide *temporary pain relief*, starting the day of surgery. They are not intended for long term use. If you have been prescribed a narcotic, please read all information provided by the pharmacist and be aware of the side effects, drug interactions, and adverse effects associated with narcotics. Some of the most common effects are dizziness, nausea, vomiting, hypotension (low blood pressure), constipation, sleepiness, itching, headache, insomnia, nervousness, decreased appetite, rash, anxiety, euphoria, withdrawal symptoms if abruptly discontinued, dependency, abuse, addiction, respiratory depression, and shallow breathing. Never mix narcotics with any of the following: other opiates or narcotics, Benzodiazepines – Valium, Xanax, etc., or Alcohol.

Things you can do to prevent adverse effects:

- Ask your pharmacists if you are taking any other medications, if it is safe to do so with narcotics.
- Do not drink or take drugs while using narcotics. **Do not drive** or operate heavy machinery. Do not make any serious life decisions while taking narcotics, as your judgement is impaired.
- Narcotics are addictive and have a high abuse and overdose potential. Wean off of narcotics as soon as symptoms allow; try Tylenol extra strength instead.
- It is very common to have constipation with any narcotic use. Please try stool softeners and laxatives, such as Miralax, Senna, or Docusate as a first step in treatment.
- Take **Benadryl** for any severe itching associated with narcotics
- Use caution when walking around; take your time getting up from a seated position to avoid dizziness and falls.
- Take with food. Consider using **Zofran** if you have any nausea associated with narcotic use.

Appropriate Use of Narcotics:

Take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours. Start by taking 1 or 2 tablets with a small amount of food when you get home from surgery. **Set an alarm or write down when your last dose was**. After 4 hours, assess your pain level. If you have a lot of pain, take another 1-2 tablets 4 hours from last dose. If you have manageable pain or low pain, take only 1 tablet after 4 hours, or wait until 6 hours from last dose to take another tablet. If your pain seems manageable, then decrease to 1 tablet every 6 hours. You may also try switching to Tylenol instead of a narcotic. You may use Tylenol with the narcotics, but be aware of the dose of Tylenol, and **do not exceed 3000mg of Tylenol per day**.

Toufic R. Jildeh, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Team Physician - Michigan State University
Olympic Team Physician for US Ski and Snowboard

Some people may not need any narcotics after surgery. Some may only need 1 tablet just prior to Physical Therapy or to help them sleep pain free. Others may need 2 tablets every 4-6 hours for the first 3-5 days after surgery. *Judge your pain level throughout the day* and assess how much you will need on a personal basis. If you think you may need more medication, and are running low, please contact us 1-2 days before you run out of medication.

Consider weaning off of narcotics on a day by day basis, but do not get to the point where you have too much pain that they become ineffective. This is called a pain crisis, and usually occurs when a patient thinks they can suffer through extreme pain for an extended period and does not take any narcotics. If this occurs, it may be difficult for narcotics to cover the pain at that point, and you may need to go to the ER for IV pain control. Avoid this if at all possible by assessing your pain level throughout the day and staying on top of your pain medicine schedule.

Other Narcotic Information:

Once you have weaned off of narcotics completely for several weeks, consider *returning any unused medications to your local police department for disposal*. Do not flush them down the toilet or throw them in the garbage, as this can contaminate our water supply. *Keep narcotics locked and stored*, away from children especially. If you have any questions or concerns about Narcotics, ask your pharmacist or a member of our team.