

AFTER SURGERY

Postoperative Instructions: Open Shoulder Surgery

Getting Home

- An adult must drive you home after surgery.
- You may feel dizzy from anesthesia and pain medication.
- Avoid driving, operating machinery, drinking alcohol, or making major decisions for 24 hours.

Surgical Dressing

- You can shower on the 3rd postoperative day: leave the plastic dressing on during the shower, then peel it off, pat dry, and reapply a large band-aid or gauze over the incision.
- Leave the bandage on during each shower, then change to a fresh one afterward.
- No baths, hot tubs, or swimming until Dr. Kim allows.

Medications

A narcotic pain medication may be prescribed to take as needed. If a prescription pain medication is needed, it will be either a narcotic or Journavx® (suzetrigine), a non-opioid option.

Narcotic Pain Medication

- If you had a regional block from anesthesia, consider taking pain medication before the block fully wears off for better control.
- Take as needed, following the instructions on your prescription bottle.
- May cause nausea, vomiting, or constipation — a stool softener will also be prescribed.
- Do not drink alcohol or drive while taking this medication.
- Wean off as soon as your pain allows; transition to over-the-counter Tylenol (acetaminophen) as needed.

Journavx® (suzetrigine)

- Bring your prescription with you on the day of surgery — your first 100 mg dose is given in the preop holding area.
- Beginning 12 hours later: 50 mg every 12 hours, typically continued for up to 2 weeks.
- Swallow tablets whole — do not chew or crush.

Activity

- Your arm will be in a sling and should remain in it until your first postoperative visit.
- Remove the sling only for hygiene and to periodically move your elbow, wrist, and fingers.
- Do not lift anything with your operative arm.

Follow-Up Appointments

- You will see Dr. Kim or her PA 7–14 days after surgery. If you're unsure of your appointment date, call (503) 717-7060 to verify.
- Physical therapy typically begins 2–4 weeks after surgery — timing will be confirmed at your postoperative visit.

If you're experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.