

**Orthopaedic and Spine Institute**  
**21 Spurs Lane, Suite 245, San Antonio, TX 78240**  
[www.saspine.com](http://www.saspine.com)  
**Tel# 210-487-7463**  
**Joel B. Nilsson, M.D., P.A.**

**Osteochondral Autograft (OATS) Patients Post-Op Instructions**

Your operation was performed through two or three medium sized incisions. The interior of your joint was visualized with a small telescopic device. Cartilage and bone was moved from one to another area in your knee. You may experience fluid or swelling in the joint. This is usually due to fluid used during your surgery or bleeding into the joint. This fluid is usually reabsorbed by your body over time. If it is significantly painful, this fluid may be removed at the time of your first postoperative appointment.

***Dressing:*** There is a soft compression dressing around your knee. This dressing should feel comfortable and will absorb any drainage from your knee. The dressing may become moist from blood or arthroscopic fluid; this is not a cause for alarm. If the area in question is exceptionally large or continues to bleed, please call the office 210-487-7463. Your physician or physician assistant will give you specific instructions concerning your dressing. You can remove the dressing three days after surgery. You may use a simple tape, gauze and ACE wrap dressing to cover the incisions.

***Ice Cuff:*** The ice cuff is worn for the first 3 days. Wear the cuff for 3 hours and take it off for 2-hour intervals. You may remove the Ace wrap on your lower leg when the ice cuff is off. Rewrap the Ace when you reapply your ice cuff.

***Wounds:*** There may be small stitches in the incisions. The incisions may be sore and may bruise. Keep the incisions clean and

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treat them like any small cut in the skin. If you have Steri-Strips over the incisions, leave them on until instructed to remove them.

**Activity:** Crutches will be necessary during the first 8 weeks following surgery, when you will be unable to put any weight on the operated leg. To relieve pain and reduce swelling, keep your leg elevated above your heart. Do ankle range of motion frequently. Use your crutches, and begin range of motion exercises as tolerated. Do not run, jog, or engage in any sports activities until you receive permission and instructions from the physician or physician assistant.

**Bathing:** Do not get your operative site wet for 3 days after the date of surgery unless permitted by your physician. At that point you may shower but don't bathe or swim until cleared by your physician or PA.

**Pain:** Upon discharge from the hospital you should have a prescription for pain medication. Please take the pain medication with food. Do not drink alcoholic beverages or drive if you are using pain medications.

**Precautions:** If you develop a fever (temperature greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit or 38.3 Celsius) or chills, or any undue symptoms such as unexpected pain, redness, swelling in your legs, rash, blisters, numbness, tingling, itching, hives or shortness of breath, please contact our office (210) 487-7463. If you have a problem or question, do not hesitate to call the office. The answering service will handle your calls to the office after hours and

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on weekends and one of the Spine and Orthopedic Institute clinicians will be available. **If you have an emergency, call 911.**