

POST OPERATIVE PROTOCOL

Closing Wedge High Tibial Osteotomy Rehabilitation Protocol

General Guidelines

- HTO are usually performed on a 1 or 2 night in-patient stay
- Supervised physical therapy commences immediately postoperatively. Patients should see their physical therapist as soon as practically possible. Supervised therapy continues for 6-12 months
- Dr Awwad may alter time frames when indicated.

White compression stockings

You may stop wearing the white compression stockings after 24-48 hours. This compression stocking helps prevent a blood clot from forming in your legs. Once you are walking frequently you will no longer need the stocking. If you develop lower leg swelling, tenderness, and/or redness, please contact Dr Awwad's office or the hospital.

Dressings

The bulky encircling dressings (crepe bandage, velband and pads) may be removed the day after surgery. The small adhesive dressings should be left intact. To shower, cover the surgical knee and dressings with plastic cling wrap. Prior to discharge from hospital, an appointment will be made to see a nurse for a dressing change and wound check between 1-2 weeks post-operatively.

Ice and elevation

The leg should be intermittently elevated and an ice pack used for 72 hours post-operatively to assist with swelling and pain. Ice packs should be applied for 20-30mins/hr. After 72 hrs, ice packs are no longer required, although can be safely continued and their use is very helpful for pain and swelling.

Pain medications

The anaesthetist will individualise and organise the appropriate pain relief for patients. Commonly required medication are panadeine forte, tramadol, paxia and endone.

General progression of daily activities

- Driving
 - Left leg surgery 1 week for automatic cars, 2-4 weeks for manual cars
 - Right leg surgery 2-4 weeks
- Weight-bearing as tolerated immediately post-op
- Wean from crutches for ambulation by 6 weeks as patient demonstrates normal gait mechanics and good quad control as defined by absence of quadriceps lag.
- Return to work as directed by Dr Awwad based on work demands.

Precautions

Patients should contact Dr Awwad's office or the hospital the operation was performed in, if they develop high temperatures, worsening skin redness, worsening calf, knee or thigh pain and swelling and excessive bleeding or ooze from the incision sites.

Weeks 1-6

- ROM knee as tolerated
- Mobilise as tolerated
- Expect to need crutches for pain for 2-4 weeks
- May commence hydrotherapy programme at 2 weeks (after incision sites healed)
- Brace may be removed at 4 weeks post-operatively

Weeks 6-12

- Fully weight bearing
- Quads and hamstring strengthening

Weeks 12+

- Graduated return to normal activities

If you still have questions about your recovery

Please contact Dr Awwad's office prior to your surgical date at: drgeorgeadmin@aos.com.au

Sometimes we may miss a question that is important to you. If so, please feel free to email us your feedback so that we can improve our service to you and future patients – drgeorgeadmin@aos.com.au

Ask Dr Awwad to clarify your restrictions prior to surgery to avoid disappointment.



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