



**GEOFFREY S. VAN THIEL, MD/MBA**

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**SPORTS MEDICINE SURGERY & HIP ARTHROSCOPY**

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- Cutting edge information on the arthroscopic treatment of the hip, knee and shoulder -

**Shoulder Replacement**

**Checklist**

- ✓ Physical Therapy Prescription
  - o PT script given at 1<sup>st</sup> post op
  - o Trainer Rx for supplemental home based rehab (\$75) – Email VanThielMD@orthoillinois.com
- ✓ Medications
  - Paper Prescription*
    - o Pain - Norco 10/325
  - Sent To Pharmacy*
    - o Aspirin 325mg once daily for 4 weeks
    - o Antibiotic(*outpatient only*)- Keflex x 1 day (If allergic, Doxycycline x 1 day)
    - o Additional Medications:

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- ✓ Sling
- ✓ Optional – Ask Clinical Lead
  - o Ice and Compression Machine – Game Ready - \$352 for a 14-day rental and \$18/day for each day following
  - o Compression Stockings - \$23.
    - Help with post-operative swelling. In DME store.
- ✓ Post Op Visit:

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## What to Expect

- The following instructions will help guide you through your recovery. Separate instructions for therapy and exercises will be given and are available at [www.VanThielMD.com](http://www.VanThielMD.com).
- Dr. Van Thiel's PAs (Physician Assistants) Stephanie Leverentz and Sage Norwood will be closely involved in your care and recovery. A physician assistant is a licensed practitioner that has completed over 2 years of post-college medical training and has the credentials and expertise to treat patients independently.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Post-Operative Visit** – This will be 2 weeks after the surgery. You will see Dr. Van Thiel and he will go through your surgery and answer any questions you have.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Post-Operative Visits** – Occur at 6 weeks and 3 months after surgery. During these visits you will be seen by Stephanie Leverentz or Sage Norwood (Dr. Van Thiel's PAs) to ensure that you are comfortable and meeting the recovery goals. Mrs. Leverentz and Ms. Norwood are always in direct communication with Dr. Van Thiel and have the medical expertise, training and credentials to help you along with your recovery.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Post-Operative Visit** – Occurs at 6 months after surgery. Dr. Van Thiel will discuss any questions that you have and ensure you are making a complete recovery.
- **Physical Therapy** – Physical therapy will begin after your first post-operative visit for a total shoulder replacement and after your 4 week visit for a reverse shoulder replacement.
- We will contact your insurance company to authorize your surgery, but we suggest that you also contact your insurance company for further information and to verify coverage.

## Day of Surgery

- **Diet** – Do not eat or drink anything after 11PM the night before surgery.
- When you get to the hospital or surgery center Dr. Van Thiel will come speak with you and confirm the procedure and the side. Feel free to ask any questions.
- The anesthesiologist will also come speak with you. We routinely perform regional blocks for pain control during and after surgery. A regional

block is a small injection that will numb the nerves at the operative site for up to 12-30 hours after surgery. These blocks are excellent for pain control.

- **After Surgery** – You will wake up in the recovery room and once you are comfortable and fully awake, the nurses will admit you to the floor for 1-2 days.

## *Post-Operative Care*

### Diet

- Following surgery, nausea is very common. Begin with clear liquids and progress to your daily diet as tolerated.

### Wound Management

- A bandage is applied to the operative site. Leave the bandage on until the first post-operative visit.
- It is normal for there to be drainage and for the dressing to become blood tinged
- Keep the dressing intact until post-op appointment.
- It is OK to shower with the bandage on.

### Activity

- Keep operative arm in the sling provided with the exception of showering.
- Sling will be worn for 6 weeks.
- You are encouraged to walk in a controlled environment in order to avoid prolonged sitting. Remove the arm from the sling daily and do pendulum exercises of the shoulder.
- Return to a physically demanding job will be discussed on your postoperative visit.
- You may take your arm out of the sling 4x daily to allow pendulums, the bending and straightening of your elbow, wrist and hand.
- No driving until instructed by your physician
- Sleeping may be performed in a reclining chair or bed with the use of pillows to support the operative site as tolerated.
- Return to a physically demanding job will be discussed on your postoperative visit.

### Ice/Cryotherapy

- An ice machine or ice packs will be provided and applied at the conclusion of your surgery.
- Use continuously for the first 72 hours postoperatively, then in 30 minute increments 4-5

times per day thereafter as tolerated.

### **Medications**

- Most patients require the use of narcotics for a period of time after surgery. Take as directed.
- If you received an interscalene nerve block, numbness and loss of function may persist for up to 24 hours postoperatively. You are encouraged to take your prescribed pain medication as indicated on the bottle regardless of pain for the first 24 hours.
- Common side effects of pain medication: nausea, insomnia, itching, constipation, drowsiness, hallucinations.
- Take medications with food to reduce side effects
- Do not operate machinery or moving vehicles while taking the pain medication.

### **Emergencies**

- If at any time you have questions or emergent concerns contact Dr. Van Thiel or his physician assistant Stephanie Leverentz, PA-C or Sage Norwood, PA-C at (815-398-9491).
- If you are calling after hours or over a weekend you will be directed to the physician answering service and you may be called by the physician or physician assistant on call.
- Please call if any of the following arise:
  - Fever >101. (It is normal to have a low grade fever for the first 1-2 days after surgery)
  - Redness
  - Painful swelling
  - Numbness
  - Shortness of breath
  - Excessive bleeding and/or drainage from incision sites
  - If you require immediate attention, go to the nearest emergency room

### **Follow-up**

- A follow-up appointment will be set for 2 weeks after the surgery. If you have questions or concerns about this date contact our scheduler at (815-381-7332) during normal office hours.
- Physical Therapy will begin after your

postoperative visit

- If you have additional questions or concerns most questions can be addressed by our Clinical Lead by calling (815-381-7365).