



Olecranon Open Reduction Internal Fixation Post Operative Rehabilitation Protocol

Following Surgery:

- Expect a surgical bulky dressing and removable splint to be kept in place for 3-4 days.
- Elevate and ice for at least 3 days; gentle full motion of fingers encouraged several times a day.
- Shower with a plastic bag covering the splint and seal with tape.
- Your pain may be worst in the first 24-48 hours and then will lessen.
- Take your pain medicine as needed and as prescribed. Call if any problems or questions arise.

2 Week Post-op:

- Follow up in clinic with xrays
- Occupational Therapy will fashion removable splint holding the elbow in 90 degrees flexion and wrist in neutral. Splint to be worn full time except for when performing therapy exercises
- Finger/Hand/Wrist AROM/AAROM/PROM encouraged immediately.
- Elbow AROM/AAROM extension and flexion; Gentle PROM at 4 weeks
- Non-weight bearing

6 Week Post-op:

- Follow up in clinic with xrays
- Initiate weaning of splint. Discontinue by 8 weeks.
- Advance PROM to elbow flexion/extension, and continue AROM/AAROM exercises.
- Begin forearm strengthening at 6 weeks, and gentle elbow strengthening at 8 weeks.
- 5 lbs lifting restriction starting at 6 weeks (increasing by 5lb every 1-2 weeks as tolerated)
- Transition to a home exercise program by 8 weeks.

12 Weeks Post-op:

- Follow up in clinic with xrays
- Progressive activities as tolerated

Considerations:

- Expect some loss of elbow flexion/extension.