



Lisa Kaplin, DO

ACHILLES TENDON REPAIR

1. DIET

- Begin with clear liquids and light foods (jellos, soups, etc.)
- Progress to your normal diet if you are not nauseated

2. WOUND CARE

- Maintain your operative dressing, loosen bandage if swelling occurs.
- It is normal for the ankle to swell following surgery – if blood soaks onto the ACE bandage, do not become alarmed – reinforce with additional dressing
- Do not remove the splint until your post operative visit with Dr. Kaplin.
- Do not put any weight on your operative extremity.

3. MEDICATIONS

- Pain medication is injected into the wound during surgery – this will wear off within 8-12 hours
- Most patients will require some narcotic pain medication for a short period of time – this can be taken as per the directions on the bottle
- Common side effects of the pain medication are nausea, drowsiness, and constipation – to decrease the side effects, take medication with food – if constipation occurs, consider taking an over-the-counter laxative
- If you are having problems with nausea and vomiting, contact the office to possibly have your medication changed
- Do not drive a car or operate machinery while taking the narcotic medication
- Ibuprofen 200-400mg (i.e. Advil) may be taken in between the narcotic pain medication to help smooth out the post-operative 'peaks and valleys', reduce overall amount of pain medication required, and increase the time intervals between narcotic pain medication usage



Lisa Kaplin, DO

4. ACTIVITY

- Elevate the operative leg to chest level whenever possible to decrease swelling
- Do not place pillows under knees (i.e. do not maintain knee in a flexed or bent position), but rather place pillows under foot/ankle
- Do not engage in activities which increase knee pain/swelling (prolonged periods of standing or walking) over the first 7-10 days following surgery
- Avoid long periods of sitting (without leg elevated) or long distance traveling for 2 weeks
- NO driving until instructed otherwise by physician

5. ICE THERAPY

- Begin immediately after surgery
- Use icing machine continuously or ice packs (if machine not prescribed) every 2 hours for 20 minutes daily until your first post-operative visit – remember to keep arm elevated to level of chest while icing

6. EXERCISE

- Remain in your splint until your post operative visit. Do not do any exercises until otherwise instructed by Dr. Kaplin

7. EMERGENCIES

Contact Dr. Kaplin or her medical assistant at 215-745-4050 if any of the following are present:

- Painful swelling or numbness
- Unrelenting pain
- Fever (over 101° - it is normal to have a low grade fever for the first day or two following surgery) or chills
- Redness around incisions
- Color change in foot or ankle
- Continuous drainage or bleeding from incision (a small amount of drainage is expected)
- Difficulty breathing
- Excessive nausea/vomiting



Lisa Kaplin, DO

- **If you have an emergency after office hours or on the weekend, contact the same office number 215-745-4050 and you will be connected to our page service – they will contact Dr. Kaplin or one of her physician assistants if she is unavailable. Do NOT call the hospital or surgical center.

**If you have an emergency that requires immediate attention, proceed to the nearest emergency room.

9. FOLLOW UP CARE + QUESTIONS

- A member of Dr. Kaplin's team will call you on your first day after surgery to address any questions or concerns. If you have not been contacted within 48 hours of surgery, please call the office at 215-745-4050.
- If you do not already have a postoperative appointment scheduled, please contact the office during normal office hours (215-745-4050) and ask for appointment scheduling.