

Home Care Information Sheet

820 NE Northgate Way | Seattle, WA 98125 | Phone (206) 440-7700



Date: _____

Patient: _____

Follow these instructions to help relieve pain, swelling or discomfort. **If any of these procedures increases your pain, swelling or discomfort in any way discontinue them immediately.**

ICE

- Place ice pack* on _____ for _____.
- Repeat for _____ hours until you go to be.
- Repeat every hour until bedtime.
- Repeat until next appointment.
- Repeat as needed to control pain, swelling or discomfort.
- Other: _____

* A bag of frozen peas from your grocer's freezer case can make an economical ice pack.

Warning: Do not eat the contents after refreezing.

HEAT

- Apply heat* on _____ for _____.
- Repeat for _____ hours or until you go to bed.
- Repeat every hour until bedtime.
- Repeat until next appointment.
- Repeat as needed to control pain, swelling or discomfort.
- Relax in a warm (104° F maximum) soaking bath until the bath cools.
- Other: _____

* A certified hot water bottle filled at 104° F maximum temperature or a UL approved heating pad.

HEAT & COLD

- Apply alternating heat and cold to _____ for _____.
- Repeat for _____ hours or until you go to bed.
- Repeat every hour until bedtime.
- Repeat until next appointment.

REST

- Refrain from heavy/moderate/all work duties.
- Best rest:
 - on your back/pillow under knees/under neck.
 - on your side/pillow between knees/under head.
 - in any position you find comfortable.
- Other: _____

Suggestions To Follow During Spinal Correction

1. Avoid rubbing, probing or poking in the areas your doctor adjusts.
2. Avoid sudden twists or turns of movement beyond normal limits of motion, especially of the neck.
3. Avoid extreme bending of your spine in any direction; avoid stretching, reaching, or other overhead work. Be particularly careful when brushing or shampooing your hair.
4. Avoid bending or stooping sharply to pick up objects; rather, bend your knees to minimize the strain on your lower back.
5. When lifting, keep your back straight; bend your knees and let your legs bear the strain. Hold the object lifted as close to your body as possible.
6. When bathing, sit rather than recline in the tub. Lying back against the tub may cause a vertebra to slip out of its normal position. If you are tired and wish to relax, it's better to lie in bed.
7. Participate in simple exercises to strengthen your body, but avoid jarring activities which place stress on your neck and spine.
8. Watch your posture at all times; stand tall, sleep tall, and THINK tall!

Rest, Relaxation & Sleep

1. Set aside a special time each day for complete mental and physical relaxation. This is important in the restoration, as well as the maintenance, of normal health.
2. When sitting, choose a chair that has adequate firmness to hold your weight comfortably, and then sit straight. Avoid too soft, overstuffed chairs. Recliner chairs are acceptable if they are constructed so that when you are reclining, your back is in a normal straight position.
3. Cross your legs only at the ankles, not at the knees. Crossing your legs at the knees could aggravate an existing back condition as well as interfere with the circulation to the lower limbs.
4. Be sure to get plenty of sleep to allow your body to recuperate and repair.
5. Sleep on a firm mattress, preferably one which is neither too hard nor too soft, but just firm enough to hold your body level while at the same time soft enough so that your shoulders, buttocks, etc., will depress into the mattress.
6. Your pillow should be neither too high nor too low. The ideal pillow is one which supports your head so that your neck vertebrae will be level with the rest of your spine. Avoid sleeping on your stomach. Raise your head off the pillow when changing positions.
7. Rise from your bed by turning on your side and swinging your legs off the bed, pushing yourself into a sitting position with your arms, thus minimizing the amount of strain on your back.
8. Do not read or watch T.V. in bed particularly with your head propped at a sharp or strained angle.
9. Do not sleep sitting in a chair or in cramped quarters. Lie down in bed when it is time to sleep.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY PHASE OF YOUR HEALTH CARE

....FEEL FREE TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR.