# **POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS** ARTHROSCOPIC ANKLE DEBRIDEMENT/LOOSE BODY REMOVAL/MICROFRACTURE

#### DIET

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

#### WOUND CARE

> To avoid infection, keep surgical incisions clean and dry – you may shower by placing a large garbage bag over your splint starting the day after surgery – NO immersion of operative leg (i.e. bath)

# MEDICATIONS

- > Pain medication is injected into the wound and ankle joint 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 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 and ask for **Dr. El**-Gazzar at newedgeorthopedics@gmail.com or (201) 985-8967
- > 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

### ACTIVITY

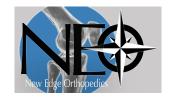
- Elevate the operative leg to chest level whenever possible to decrease swelling
- Use crutches to assist with walking use a heel-toe pattern when walking, but do NOT bear any weight on your operative leg unless instructed otherwise by physician
  Do not engage in activities which increase ankle pain/swelling (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
- May return to sedentary work ONLY or school 3-4 days after surgery, if pain is tolerable

# 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 leg elevated to level of chest while icing

# **EXERCISE**

- Ankle and foot range of motion may begin immediately unless otherwise instructed by your
- Formal physical therapy (PT) will begin about 10-14 days post-operatively with a prescription provided at your first post-operative visit



# FOR EMERGENCY

- Contact Dr. El-Gazzar or his office New Edge Orthopedics at newedgeorthopedics@gmail.com or (201) 985-8967 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 wrist or hand
- Continuous drainage or bleeding from incision (a small amount of drainage is expected)
- Difficulty breathing
- Excessive nausea/vomiting

