



ADVANCED CENTER  
FOR SURGERY

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**Post Operative Instructions**  
Carpal Tunnel Release

1. A dressing is applied to the wrist after surgery. Leave the dressing in place for 2 days. After 2 days change the dressing and apply bandaids to the incision. Reapply the ACE wrap if desired. Keep the wound dry until seen in the office.
2. Apply ice to the wrist directly over the elastic bandage. Ice at least 20min 5 times a day while swelling is evident.
3. Elevating the arm away from the side of the body will also help reduce swelling.
4. You may shower after 24hrs. Dressing must remain dry. Use a plastic bag and tape to keep dressing dry.
5. Take pain medicine as directed. Do not wait until pain is unbearable as the medicine will be less effective.
6. If pain is severe between doses of pain medicine over-the-counter ibuprofen may be taken. Take 600mg every 6 hrs. (Maximum 2400mg in 24 hrs).
7. Numbness of the hand and fingers can be normal for the first 24hrs after surgery and is due to local numbing medicine used for pain control.
8. Swelling and stiffness in the wrist is normal for several weeks following surgery and can be minimized by limiting activities, and elevating the arm and applying ice after activities.
9. Lifting should be avoided for the first few weeks after surgery.
10. Call Dr. Greenleaf's office if you notice any redness, increased warmth, swelling, or discharge or if the post-operative discomfort or numbness increases and is not relieved by a combination of applying ice, elevation, and taking pain medicine as directed.
11. Dr. Greenleaf call be reached at 814-330-8108. The office can be reached at 814-942-1166 anytime. If you are experiencing an emergency go to the ER or call 911.