

**Tibial Plateau Fractures**  
**POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**  
**Michael F Shepard M.D.**  
**(714) 634-4567**

**1. First Post – Operative Day**

- A. Continue ice pack every one to two hours while awake.**
- B. Pain medication as needed.**

***DO NOT place ICE directly to the skin – this will result in a burn and potentially serious wound complications. Always keep a pad between the ice and the skin.***

**2. Second Post – Operative Day Until Return Visit**

- A. Continue ice pack as needed.**
- B. You may remove your bandage from the surgical area and shower this evening. You will need to keep your op site(s) dry by covering wound with water-proof bandages (these can be purchased at your local pharmacy) when taking a shower. Do this for about fourteen days from surgery or until op site(s) is completely scabbed over and sutures are removed. Do not remove steri strips because these keep the incision closed and stitches in place.**
- C. You may not place any weight on your operated extremity. Use your crutches for movement and balance. You will walk with the brace locked in extension for about 4 weeks.**
- D. You must wear your brace at all times.**

**NO WEIGHT BEARING ON THE OPERATED SIDE**

**3. Suture Removal**

- A. Your sutures need to be removed 7-10 days from surgery at your first post op visit. Rehab should start after your first visit.**

**For Return Appointments**

- 4. Your 1<sup>st</sup> post-op visit will need to be scheduled for 7 days after surgery.**
- 5. If you have any problems or questions please call our office at (714) 634-4567 during offices hours 8:00-5:00. If you have a problem after hours the answering service will contact Dr. Shepard.**
- 6. Any activity that requires precise thinking and accuracy must be avoided for the first twelve hours after surgery and while taking pain medication, which includes operating machinery and/or driving a vehicle.**

