
YOUR JOINT JOURNEY - ANTERIOR HIP REPLACEMENT



Calvary

Lenah Valley Hospital

Your Joint Journey
Anterior Hip Replacement

Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

Anterior Hip Replacement

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 Patient Information Publication

Introduction

If you are reading this booklet, it means you have recently seen your Orthopaedic Surgeon.

This booklet aims to give you an insight into your upcoming admission to Calvary Hospital for Joint Replacement Surgery and what to expect during your hospital stay.

It is important to read all of the information provided for you before coming into hospital to ensure you have the best possible outcome.

The following links can be accessed via the Calvary Internet Page and contains two important videos:

To access the videos go the Calvary internet page > Services and Clinics > Orthopaedics and follow the link to ‘My Joint Journey’ videos:

<https://www.calvarycare.org.au/lenah-valley-private-hospital-hobart/services-and-clinics/orthopaedics/>

Please watch these videos before coming into hospital.



Calvary Physiotherapy - Post Operative Exercises For The Hip



Pre-Admission

- You will attend our pre-admission joint clinic OR a phone call before coming into hospital where one of our nurses will assess you and explain your admission details.
- It is VERY important to think about the functional aspects of your home such as access, rails in the bathroom/toilet and to ensure items that you will need are located at waist height and easily accessible. This includes items such as plates, cups, cooking essentials and food.
- We also ask you to think about who is going to be at home with you after you have been discharged from hospital. If you live alone, we strongly suggest you organise a friend or relative to stay with you once you are discharged home. Organising your home environment before coming into hospital allows a smooth transition from hospital to your home and avoid delays in your discharge.
- You can expect to stay for two to three days in hospital.
- It is also important that your bowels are working normally before your admission and that you have a bowel movement the day before or the day of admission.
- We also recommend that you purchase or hire elbow crutches before coming into hospital as the hospital does not supply equipment for hire.
- It is important to remember that most wards contain a mixture of shared and private rooms. We acknowledge the request for a private room, however, it is important to understand that the level of your care and the needs of the ward could mean it may be necessary for you to reside in a shared room.

Day of Admission

- We recommend that you only bring a small bag containing your toiletries and medications (including Arnica cream) on the day of your operation. Your friend or relative may then bring the remainder of your belongings once you have returned to the ward after your operation. We understand that this is not possible in all cases but ask that you please keep in mind that storage in our Day of Surgery Admissions (DOSA) unit is limited.
- On your day of surgery, please present yourself to the front desk where your admission process will commence.
- You will then be escorted to our DOSA unit. You will be requested to have an antiseptic shower and be prepared for theatre.
- We ask that you please show your medications to the admitting Nurse in case you have medications, such as strong pain relief medications, which are required to be locked up in our safe.
- We also ask that you please bring your medications in their original packaging and NOT in a blister pack or dosette box. This helps your nurses to identify your tablets more easily.
- Once ready for theatre, you will be taken to the waiting bay on a trolley where the staff will apply a warming blanket.
- You will then be transferred to the operating room where you will see your Surgeon, Anaesthetist and the Theatre Staff caring for you during your operation.

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Recovery

- Following your operation, you will be transferred to the recovery room where you will wake up with intravenous fluids running into a vein in your arm or hand.
- You will have a blood pressure cuff on your arm, a pulse oximeter attached to your finger and a mask on your face delivering oxygen.
- You will also have foot pumps attached to your feet which intermittently squeeze to ensure proper blood circulation in your legs.
- Once your vital observations are stable and pain levels are manageable, you will then be transferred to your room on the ward.



Return to the Ward

- Once you are transferred to your room, you will once again be attached to an observation machine so that your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygenation can be monitored by the nursing staff.
- Vital and neurovascular observations are recorded frequently within the first night following your surgery.
- You also have local anaesthetic infiltrated into your joint during the time of surgery. This provides some pain relief and we encourage you to move your operated limb (by as flexing your hip for example) whilst the local anaesthetic is in effect.
- Ice packs will be applied to your wound area regularly to aid with pain relief and decrease swelling. We encourage you to ask for ice packs at any time throughout your hospital stay.
- Panadol will be given to you regularly every six hours, which acts as a baseline cover for your pain.
- Your nurse will assess your pain levels regularly by asking you to score your pain from zero to ten. If your pain score is greater than 3/10, stronger pain medication will be offered.
- Some medications may cause side effects such as dizziness, nausea, or feeling generally unwell. It is important that you report any “off colour” feelings to your nurse.
- You may be able to mobilise, with the supervision of your nurse, on the night of surgery.

Post-Surgery – Day One

- You will be able to have a supervised shower this day if your vital observations are stable.
- You may experience some numbness in your thigh.
- You will mobilise with a frame and your nurse or physiotherapist will explain the correct walking technique. As your mobility and confidence improves, you will progress onto crutches.
- Arnica Cream should be massaged around the operated area two to three times per day to help reduce bruising and swelling.
- Your nurse will continue to apply ice packs regularly.
- Your foot pumps need to be worn when you are in bed for your length of stay. This helps reduce swelling and your risk of acquiring a clot.
- The physiotherapist will work with you and show you exercises which you will need to complete at least three times each day.
- We recommend you walk short distances with plenty of rest in between on this first day. You may also sit out of bed (on a suitable chair that is adjusted to the appropriate height) for short periods of time. We encourage you to keep your leg elevated and wear foot pumps whilst resting.
- Your local anaesthetic should still be in effect, however, please ask your nurse for more pain relief should you require it.
- We aim to manage your pain with Panadol, anti-inflammatories and ice packs, and only use stronger medications if required.

Post-Surgery – Day Two

- Your main focus this day is on improving your mobility and gaining more independence to prepare for discharge home the following day.
- The physiotherapist will take you for a longer walk and trial the stairs if you are confident and progressing well on the crutches.
- It is important that you learn to get in and out of bed independently. Your physiotherapist or nurse can show you techniques to facilitate this.
- Your physiotherapist will also discuss your equipment needs at home. You may wish to hire crutches, a toilet or shower chair.
- Your local anaesthetic will have worn off by this day and you may experience more pain, including referred knee pain, which is normal. Please let your nurse know if you have pain so that they can discuss and plan with you how to best address your pain management.
- If you have yet to have a bowel movement, your nurse will encourage you to take medication that will help prevent constipation. We recommend that you have your bowels open prior to being discharged home.
- It is important to continue with the exercises but it is also equally important to rest. As you are moving around more freely, it is essential to keep in mind that it is necessary for your recovery to spend time, at least two hours each day, in bed with your leg elevated (we can elevate the end of your bed) and have your foot pumps on.

Post-Surgery – Day of Discharge

This day is your planned day of discharge.

- If you have achieved all of your goals, as outlined on your goals of care board displayed in your room, you are ready to discharge home. Your nurse and physiotherapist will have updated this board daily to track your progress.
- By discharge, it is important that you can do the following:
 1. **Get in and out of bed independently**
 2. **Shower by yourself (with minimal help)**
 3. **Dress yourself (with minimal help)**
 4. **Walk up and down the stairs with the crutches**
 5. **Manage your pain with oral analgesia (if necessary)**
- Discharge time is between 9.30-10.00am. Please organise for a friend or relative to collect you as close to this time as possible. During this time, our staff are also busy with incoming joint replacement surgeries and we need to prepare your room for the next patient.
- Your physiotherapist will see you before you go and can clarify information and/or answer questions you may have.
- Your nurse will go through the discharge information, explain your discharge medication and organise your follow up appointment.
- Your nurse or the hospital assistant will escort you to the front entrance in a wheelchair and ensure you get in the car safely.

Things to remember once you are home

- It is important to continue your exercises, as outlined by the physiotherapist, at least three times per day (with rests in between).
- It is also important that you don't over-exercise or walk too much.
- Please do not forget to elevate your leg on a foot stool when you are sitting.
- You should also be having a rest in bed in the middle of the day by using several pillows to elevate your leg above your heart.
- You can lie on either side in bed to sleep with a pillow in between your legs for comfort.
- Continue to use your Arnica cream and ice packs.
- We encourage you to continue taking pain relief regularly as per your discharge information. We also encourage you to record and track your medications.
- It is important to leave your wound dressing intact and follow your specific surgeons discharge instructions.
- We encourage you to ask as many questions as possible before you leave the hospital.

If you have any concerns or questions once home, please phone the ward anytime on 6278 5168. Our nursing staff will be more than happy to assist you.