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Shoulder & Elbow Surgeon

Radial Head Replacement for Fracture

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Detroit, MI

Phase I: (0 to 1 week after surgery)

Goals: Protect Repair, ensure wound healing.

1. Patients should maintain splint until seen in clinic. You should cover your splint for showing
2. Sutures dissolve on their own.

Phase II: (1 to 6 weeks after surgery)

Goals: Initiate ROM & Protect Repair

1. Begin active assisted and passive elbow flexion/ extension without limitation. Slow progression in motion. No active forearm pronation/supination.
2. Remain non-weight bearing. No lifting with the operative arm.
3. Avoid movements of resistance (e.g. Opening doors)
4. May shower and get incision wet.

Phase III: (6 to 12 weeks after surgery)

Goal: Progress ROM and initiate strengthening.

1. Advance active and passive ROM in all planes to tolerance.
 - a. Flexion, supination, pronation
2. Begin active elbow extension
3. Initiate slow progressive strengthening under therapy guidance:
 - a. Week 6: 1-2 lbs.
 - b. Week 8: 2-3 lbs.
 - c. Week 10: 5-8 lbs.
 - d. Week 12: 8-10 lbs.

Phase IV: (>3months after surgery)

1. Continued functional strengthening
2. Permanent lifting restriction of 10 lbs.