



Mammoth Orthopedic  
Institute

Mammoth Orthopedic Institute ▪ 85 Sierra Park Road ▪ Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 ▪  
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[www.mammothortho.com](http://www.mammothortho.com)

## Toe fusion

### ACTIVITY

- Crutches may help you balance for the first few days; however, you may **HEAL WEIGHT-BEAR AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE**
- You may bend and straighten your knee as much as you like and well as the ankle. Avoid motion of the lesser toes.
- Do not engage in prolonged periods of standing or walking over the first 7-10 days following surgery, keeping the foot elevated at or above heart level will significantly help your healing and pain.
- Avoid long periods of sitting (without leg elevated) or long distance traveling for 2 weeks.

### DRESSINGS & INCISIONS

- The first two days after surgery you can expect a small amount of red-tinged drainage on your dressings. This is normal.
- Please keep the dressing clean and dry; if you are going to shower/bathe, you must protect the dressing. You may not soak in a pool, lake, hot tub, or the ocean until 1 week after the sutures have been removed.
- You may keep the post operative dressing on until your first post op appointment at which time we will remove it. If you want to remove it sooner please replace with a clean sterile dressing.
- Please do not use Bacitracin® or other ointments on the incisions.

### PAIN & INFLAMMATION

- **Ice** - Apply an ice bag wrapped in a dry towel several times per day for 20 minutes for the first week and then as needed for pain relief and inflammation.
- **Compression** - Use your ACE wrap to decrease swelling. Always wrap from your foot towards your thigh.
- **Elevation** - Keep your foot **elevated above your heart** as much as possible for the first 3 to 4 days.
- **Pain Medication**

- You have been given a prescription for pain control; please take as directed.

If you think you will require a refill on your medication, you **MUST** do so during our regular **weekday** office hours.

If you need additional pain medication you may take Tylenol 500-650mg every 4-6 hours. Do not take more than 3grams or 3000mg in a 24 hour period!

Common side effects of the pain medication are:

NAUSEA: To decrease nausea, take these medications with food.

DROWSINESS: Do not drive a car or operate machinery.

ITCHING: You may take Benadryl to alleviate any itching.

CONSTIPATION: To decrease constipation, use the stool softener provided

(Docusate 250mg) or over-the-counter remedies (Milk of Magnesia, Miralax, etc).

Also avoid bananas, rice, apples, toast, or yogurt...as these foods can make you constipated. Getting up and moving around also helps with constipation by "waking up" your intestinal tract.

- Anti-inflammatory medications (Aleve, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, etc.) may be taken to help with swelling and pain.

### EMERGENCIES

- Please have someone stay with you for the first 24 hours after surgery
- Please call the clinic or the orthopedist on-call if:

- Drainage soaks the dressings, expands, is foul-smelling, or your incisions are red, warm, and extremely painful
- You develop a fever (>101.5°) or chills
- You experience leg or calf pain, leg swelling, or difficulty breathing

**FOLLOW-UP CARE**

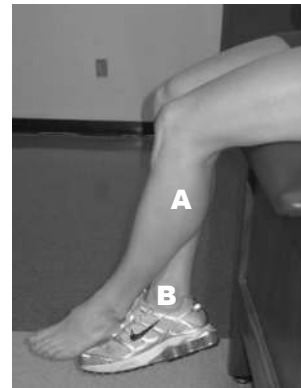
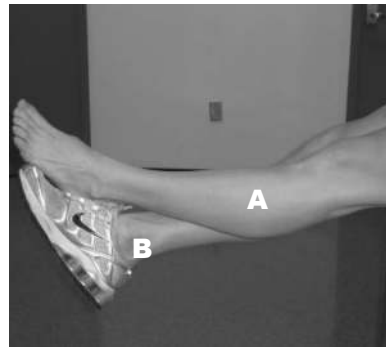
- Please **schedule a follow-up visit** for suture removal, and to review your surgery 10-14 days postoperatively.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CALL  
Mammoth 760-924-4084  
Bishop 760-872-7766**

**EXERCISES** – When you are comfortable and ready you may perform each exercise 2-3 times a day; it may help to take pain medication 20-30 minutes prior to the exercises and to apply ice after the exercises

**Flexion:**

Sit in a chair  
Place your unoperated leg (B) under the foot of your operated leg (A)  
Gently allow the knee to bend with support from your unoperated leg (B)  
When you reach your maximum bend, hold for 5 seconds  
Perform 10-20 times in a row  
**Goal = 90° of flexion** (bending) by 2 weeks after surgery



**Quadriceps Contractions:**

Sit or lie on the floor with your operated leg straight  
Place a towel roll under the knee  
Tighten your thigh and hamstring muscles, causing you to press your knee downward into the towel roll  
Hold this position for 10 seconds  
Relax your thigh and hamstring muscles  
Perform 2-3 sets of 10

**Straight Leg Raises:**

Lie on the floor  
Perform a quadriceps contraction (as stated in the above exercise)  
Raise your foot about 6-12" off the floor  
Slowly lower your leg back to the floor  
Relax your thigh muscle  
Perform 2-3 sets of 10



**Ankle Pumps:**

Point toes downward and hold for 5 seconds  
Point toes upward and hold for 5 seconds  
Perform 2-3 sets of 10



