

Tibial osteotomy

Introduction

Tibial osteotomy is used to treat one compartment osteoarthritis of the knee by offloading the affected area and loading the relatively unaffected area. Strong locking plates are used to fix it into place.

Post-operatively you are likely to feel bone discomfort, swelling and bruising as you recover.

This leaflet is designed as a reminder to the advice that your doctor and physiotherapist has given you.

Standing and walking

You may mobilise day 0 or day 1 depending on pain levels and your consultant's instructions.

You will be given and taught the correct use of elbow crutches. How much weight you will be allowed to put through your leg will be determined by your surgeon and your physiotherapist will explain this to you.

Stairs

If you need to do stairs at home, a physiotherapist will teach you the most comfortable way. Step up with the good leg first and down with the bad leg first.

Swelling

Your knee may swell for a couple of weeks or longer after your operation. If this

swelling is excessive, rest with your leg elevated and apply ice packs if you wish. The ice pack should always be wrapped in a damp towel or tea towel and never placed directly onto the skin. It should only be applied for 10 minutes as any longer can make the swelling worse. The ice pack can be applied several times during the day but there should be at least 20 minutes rest between each application.

Exercises

Each exercise needs to be repeated 10 times and the whole regime 3-5 times daily.

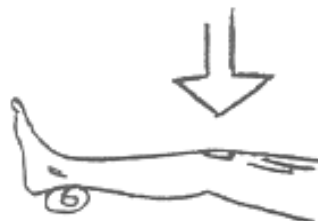
1. Heel slides



Slide your heel up the bed so that your knee bends, hold for a few seconds and then slide it down again.

Repeat 10 times.

2. Hyperextension



It is important you gain the full range of movement in your knee. This can be done

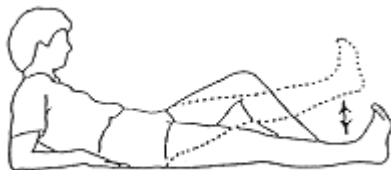
by resting your heel on a rolled up towel or the armrest of a sofa so that your knees unsupported and let it relax into position.

3. Static quads



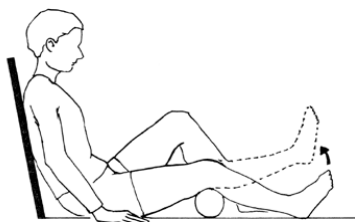
Sit with your leg straight out in front of you. Tense your thigh muscles (quads), pushing the knee down into the bed. Pulling your toes towards you may help to make this exercise easier. Hold for a count of 5. Repeat 10 times.

4. Straight leg raise



Sit with your legs in front of you and your back supported. Brace your knee and lift your leg 2 inches, holding it for 10 seconds. Lower your leg slowly. Repeat 10 times.

5. Inner range quads



With the leg resting over a rolled up towel lift the foot off the bed until the knee is straight. Hold for 10 seconds, lower the leg slowly. Repeat 10 times.

Discharge

Before leaving hospital your physiotherapist will want to see you walking independently with crutches on the flat and stairs, have full knee extension and be doing your exercises.

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Physiotherapy Department
Royal Berkshire Hospital
London Road,
Reading RG1 5AN
Telephone Number: 0118 322 7817

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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