

Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Considerations for the Older Post-Operative Orthopedic Patient

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Course Objectives:

- Understand the effect of aging on the ability to heal.
- Understand the effect of comorbidities on post-operative management of older adults.
- Know the signs and symptoms of conditions that warrant further medical assessment (i.e. DVT, infection).
- Understand the risks associated with immobilization.

Chapter 1: Aging and Healing

This chapter is an overview of the effect of aging on healing rates in the elderly. It is important to understand the prognoses following common orthopedic surgeries.

Chapter 2: Comorbidities

This chapter will cover the effect specific comorbidities have on healing rates in the elderly. We will also discuss other factors that affect healing (i.e. nutrition, etc). It is common to encounter a post-operative patient that also has comorbidities that will effect healing and prognosis.

Chapter 3: Complications

This chapter discusses potential complications in a patient that underwent an orthopedic surgery. This includes infection, deep vein thrombosis, and pneumonia. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based tools for the differential diagnosis of the complications. This is important to determine the need for further medical assessment and/or intervention.

Chapter 4: Other Considerations

This chapter will discuss other considerations for your older patients that have experienced an orthopedic surgery. As a clinician it is important to understand the effect of immobilization on your patients. It is also important to maximize function and mobility.