

Driving After Surgery

The most common question patients ask is how soon they can safely drive after surgery. As a rule, a patient **MAY NOT** drive the day of an outpatient procedure. All facilities require an adult be available to take the patient home, they will not discharge a patient into the care of a taxi or Uber driver.

Studies have shown that a person usually has some motor deficit following General Anesthesia for 24 hours following a procedure. Driving should **NOT** be undertaken during this time. Additionally, some Narcotics can remain in the body for extended time periods and patients should not return to driving until at least 24 hours after narcotic usage has stopped. In general, the return to driving depends on the procedure performed.

Knee Surgery

Following knee surgery, return to driving may take days to weeks until a patient is off narcotics and pain and swelling in the knee has diminished.

An ACL reconstruction requires a longer recovery before the pain and swelling have decreased and safe driver reaction times have returned. Studies have shown that safe reaction time resumes approximately 4-6 weeks after surgery.