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# PEACE AND LOVE

## Immediate Management of Soft Tissue Injuries




**PROTECT**
Unload or restrict movement in the area for 1 to 3 days. This may require the use of crutches for a leg injury, or a sling for the arm. This will minimise further damage or aggravation to the injury.

**ELEVATE**
Elevate the injured area above the level of your heart to reduce swelling.

**AVOID ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES**
During the acute phase anti-inflammatories can inhibit tissue repair. Simple analgesics like paracetamol can be used for pain relief.

**COMPRESS**
External mechanical compression with a brace, bandage or taping can reduce local swelling and prevent further bleeding within the injured tissues.

**EDUCATION**
Speak with your physical therapist about the injury and get a guideline for recovery and a therapy plan. Set goals about recovery times and expectations. Understand that restrictions for loading the injured area is only a temporary protective measure for the first 2 to 3 days.




**LOAD**
An active approach, with movement and exercise, benefits most injuries. Loading or stressing the joint or muscle (essentially making it work) within the limits of pain early on, actually promotes healing and stimulates tissue repair.

**OPTIMISM**
Science has shown that depression and fear about an injury and the recovery, can actually result in worse outcomes and a worse prognosis. Staying realistic and positive is important, your brain plays a key part in your recovery.

**VASCULARISATION**
That's a fancy word for improved blood supply to an area. Better blood flow means more oxygen and nutrients which ensure good tissue healing. Moving and working the joint or muscle and exercising the tissues around the area will increase blood flow to the injured site.

**EXERCISE**
Controlled exercise, within pain limits, is key from the beginning of your recovery. Restoring mobility and building strength will speed up your recovery and help prevent a recurrent injury.

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