

Rehabilitation Protocol: Arthroscopic SLAP Repair

Phase I – “Restrictive Motion” (Weeks 0-6)

Slings immobilization at all times except for showering and rehab under guidance of PT

Goals:

- Protect the anatomic repair
- Prevent negative effects of immobilization
- Promote dynamic stability
- Diminish pain and inflammation
- Range of Motion –Passive ROM -> AAROM as tolerated

Week 0-2:

- Sling for 4 weeks
- Sleep in immobilizer for 4 weeks
- Elbow/hand ROM
- Hand gripping exercises
- Passive and gentle active assistive ROM exercise
- Flexion to 60 degrees (Week 2: Flexion to 75 degrees)
- Elevation in scapular plane to 60 degrees
- ER/IR with arm in scapular plane
- ER to 10-15 degrees
- IR to 45 degrees
- **NO active ER or Extension or Abduction
- Submaximal isometrics for shoulder musculature
- NO isolated Biceps Contractions
- Cryotherapy, modalities as indicated

Week 3-4:

- Discontinue use of sling at 4 weeks
- Sleep in immobilizer until Week 4
- Continue gentle ROM exercises (PROM and AAROM)
- Flexion to 90 degrees
- Abduction to 75-85 degrees
- ER in scapular plane and 35 degrees abduction to 25-30 degrees
- IR in scapular plane and 35 degrees abduction to 55-60 degrees
- **NOTE: Rate of progression based on evaluation of the patient.

- No active ER, Extension or Elevation
- Initiate rhythmic stabilization drills
- Initiate proprioception training
- Tubing ER/IR at 0 degrees Abduction
- Continue isometrics
- Continue use of cryotherapy

Week 5-6:

- Gradually improve ROM
- Flexion to 145 degrees
- ER at 45 degrees abduction: 45-50 degrees
- ER at 45 degrees abduction: 55-60 degrees
- At 6 weeks begin light and gradual ER at 90 degrees abduction – progress to 30-40 degrees ER

- May initiate stretching exercises
- May initiate light (easy) ROM at 90 degrees Abduction
- Continue tubing ER/IR (arm at side)
- PNF manual resistance
- Initiate Active Shoulder Abduction (without resistance)
- Initiate “Full Can” Exercise (Weight of Arm)
- Initiate Prone Rowing, Prone Horizontal Abduction
- NO Biceps Strengthening

Phase II – Moderate Protection Phase (Weeks 7-14)

Discontinue sling immobilization

Goals:

Gradually restore full ROM (week 10)

Preserve the integrity of the surgical repair

Restore muscular strength and balance

Week 7-9:

- Gradually progress ROM:
- Flexion to 180 degrees
- ER at 90 degrees abduction: 90-95 degrees
- IR at 90 degrees abduction: 70-75 degrees
- Continue to progress isotonic strengthening program
- Continue PNF strengthening
- Initiate Throwers Ten Program

Week 10-12:

- May initiate slightly more aggressive strengthening
- Progress ER to Throwers Motion
- ER at 90 degrees abduction: 110-115 in throwers (Week 10-12)
- Progress isotonic strengthening exercises
- Continue all stretching exercises
- **Progress ROM to functional demands (i.e. overhead athlete)
- Continue all strengthening exercises

Phase III – Minimal Protection Phase (Week 14-20)

Criteria to enter Phase III:

- 1) Full non-painful ROM
- 2) Satisfactory stability
- 3) Muscular strength (good grade or better)
- 4) No pain or tenderness

Goals:

Establish and maintain full ROM

Improve muscular strength, power and endurance

Gradually initiate functional activities

Week 14-16:

- Continue all stretching exercises (capsular stretches)
- Maintain Throwers Motion (Especially ER)
- Continue strengthening exercises:

- Throwers Ten Program or Fundamental Exercises
- PNF Manual Resistance
- Endurance training
- Initiate light plyometric program
- Restricted sport activities (light swimming, half golf swings)

Week 16-20:

- Continue all exercise listed above
- Continue all stretching
- Continue Throwers Ten Program
- Continue Plyometric Program
- Initiate interval sport program (throwing, etc)

**See interval Throwing Program

Phase IV – Advanced Strengthening Phase (Week 20-26)

Criteria to enter Phase IV:

- 1) Full non-painful ROM
- 2) Satisfactory static stability
- 3) Muscular strength 75-80% of contralateral side
- 4) No pain or tenderness

Goals:

Enhanced muscular strength, power and endurance

Progress functional activities

Maintain shoulder mobility

Week 20-26:

- Continue flexibility exercises
- Continue isotonic strengthening program
- PNF manual resistance patterns
- Plyometric strengthening
- Progress interval sport programs

Phase V – Return to Activity Phase (Month 6 to 9)

Criteria to enter Phase V:

- 1) Full functional ROM
- 2) Muscular performance isokinetic (fulfills criteria)
- 3) Satisfactory shoulder stability
- 4) No pain or tenderness

Goals:

Gradual return to sport activities

Maintain strength, mobility and stability

Exercises:

- Gradually progress sport activities to unrestrictive participation
- Continue stretching and strengthening program