
Rehabilitation Following Hip Iliopsoas Release

Precautions:

- WBAT with crutches 2-4 weeks
- Aggressive hip flexion strengthening delayed for 6 weeks
- Functional progression as tolerated
- Full activities resumed after 3 months

I. Phase I – Immediate Postoperative Phase Protective Phase (Day 1 to Week 6)

Goals: Gradually restore ROM & Flexibility
Diminish pain and inflammation
Restore muscular strength
Restore normal pain-free gait

Week 1:

- Crutches to control weight bearing forces (**WBAT with crutches 2-4 weeks**)
- Perform knee to chest stretch (easy & painfree- 5x hourly)
- Ankle pumps
- Gluteal sets
- Quad sets
- Hip adduction isometrics (pillow squeezes)
- Heel slides
- AAROM Hip, PROM Hip & Knee
- Pelvic tilts
- Double leg bridges
- Prone positioning – Prone on elbows, prone knee flexion
- Stationary bike @ 3 days post-op
- Straight leg raises (flexion)
- Seated knee extensions
- UBE & upper body strengthening

Week 2:

- Stationary bicycle (high seat & minimal resistance) **10 min if tolerated**
- ¼ mini squats, mini wall squats
- Ankle PNF
- Supermans
- 3 way Theraband hip strengthening (no flexion)
- Isometric add/abduction
- Joint mobilizations (Grades I & II)
- Pool walking (water up to axillia region) march steps, lateral steps, backward walking, mini-squats, heel raises

Week 3:

- Continue all exercises listed above
- AROM with gradual end range stretch to tolerance
- Continue to perform AAROM & PROM exercises
- Hip flexion, IR/ER in pain-free range
- ¼ mini squats, heel raises
- Single leg bridges

- Clam shells in pain free range
- Stiffness dominant hip mobilizations (oscillations grades III & IV)
- Straight leg raises – abd, add, ext
- Leg press 90 deg hip flexion with adductor activation
- Quadruped progression 4-point → 3-point → 2-point support
- Seated on stability ball (knee extensions, pelvic control exercises)
- Progress strengthening program (painfree)
- Pool Program

II. **Phase II – Intermediate Phase: Moderate Protection Phase (Weeks 4-6)**

Goals: Restore full painfree motion
Diminish pain and inflammation
Prevent muscular inhibition
Normalize gait

Criteria for progression to Phase II

- 1) minimal pain with phase 1 exercise
- 2) minimal ROM limitations
- 3) Normalized gait without crutches

Weeks 4-5:

- Continue to progress isotonic strengthening program
- Continue all ROM, flexibility & stretching exercises
- Gradually increase time & resistance on stationary bicycle
- Gradually improve ROM through AAROM, PROM & stretching
- If hip develops stiffness – initiate hip mobilizations (grades III & IV)
- Wean off crutches after 4 weeks
- Manual PNF
- Standing resisted, adduction, abduction, extension on hip machine
 - Flexion with **very light resistance**
- Single leg balance
- Clamshells
- BOSU squat
- Pool – flutterkick, 4-way hip with water weights
- Initiate elliptical (5 weeks)
- Abdominal exercises
- Progress pool exercises

Week 6:

- Continue all exercises above
- Single leg balance with perturbation
- Leg press gradually increasing weight
- Physioball hamstring – hip lift
- Supermans on physioball
- Knee extension, hamstring curls
- Sidestepping with sport cord

III. **Phase III – Advanced Exercise Phase (Weeks 7-8)**

Goals: Restore pain free ROM
Initiate proprioception exercises
Progressively increase muscle strength and endurance

Criteria to enter Phase III:

- 1) Minimal pain with phase 2 exercise
- 2) Single leg stance with level pelvis

Weeks 7-8:

- Continue all stretching & flexibility exercises
- Full squats
- Manual/T-band PNF
- Single stability ball bridges
- Gradually progress resistance on 4-way hip for flexion
- Step-ups
- Lunges (single plane to triplanter with resistance)
- Cone walks forward and lateral with ball toss and sport cord
- Single leg body weight squats
- Step downs, step ups lateral
- Initiate tubing lifts with rotation w/ cable on 1 knee

IV. Phase IV – Return to Activity Phase (Weeks 9>)

Goals: Restoration of muscular endurance/strength
Restoration of cardiovascular endurance
Optimize neuromuscular control/balance/proprioception
Gradually increase demands on hip

Criteria to enter Phase IV:

- 1) Single leg mini squat with level pelvis
- 2) Cardiovascular fitness equal to pre-injury level
- 3) Demonstration of initial agility drills with proper body mechanics
- 4) No pain or tenderness with functional drills &/or activities

Weeks 9-11:

- Continue all exercises listed in previous phase
- Pool running → Treadmill (walk/run intervals)
- Functional agility drills
 - Backward running
 - Side slides
 - Fast feet drills
 - Cone step overs
- Plyometric double and single leg jumps

Weeks 12+:

- Running progression
- Sports specific drills
- Traditional weight training

Criteria to Return to Competition:

- Full painfree ROM & flexibility
- Hip strength equal to opposite side
- Ability to perform sport specific drills at satisfactory level & without pain
- Satisfactory Clinical Exam
- Approval by Physician