
Rehabilitation Following Knee Arthroscopy

I. PHASE I: MAXIMUM PROTECTION PHASE (Weeks 1-4)

Goals: Reduce inflammation/effusion
Allow early healing
Full passive knee extension
Gradually increase knee flexion
Restore quadriceps voluntary activation

Stage 1: Immediate post-surgery days 1 through 10

- Ice, compression, elevation
- Compression wrap dressing
- Crutches as needed
- ROM (passive 0-90) to tolerance
- Patellar mobilizations
- Stretch hamstrings, calf, hip flexors
- Strengthening exercises (neuro-muscular electrical stimulation to quads):
 - Quad sets
 - SLR flexion
 - Hip Abd/Adduction
 - Knee extension 90-40 degrees
 - Mini Squats 0-50/60 degrees
- Avoid active resisted knee flexion

Stage 2: Weeks 2 through 4

- Discontinue crutches when able
- Continue use of ice and compression
- Continue compression wrap
- ROM guidelines
 - Gradually increase PROM as tolerated
 - Week 2: 0-125 degrees
 - Week 3: 0-135 degrees
 - Week 4: 0-145 degrees
- *Discontinue crutches when safe and proper gait (usually during week 2)
- Continue PROM exercises and stretching
- Strengthening exercises (see attached sheet Phase I exercises)
 - SLR (all 4 planes)
 - Knee extension 90-0 degrees
 - CKC mini-squats 0-45 degrees
 - CKC wall squats 0-60 degrees
- Initiate CKC exercises
 - Lateral and front step overs
 - Lateral lunges
 - Step downs (lateral)
 - Step downs (front)
 - Bicycle
- Pool exercises (once incision is closed)

II. PHASE II: INTERMEDIATE PHASE (Weeks 4-6)

Goals: Full PROM
Minimal to no swelling/inflammation
Restore quadriceps strength
Gradually increase functional activities

- Continue use of ice and compression as needed
 - Continue ROM and stretching to maintain 0-135 degrees
 - Progress strengthening exercises
 - Leg press 70-0 degrees
 - Knee extension 90-40 degrees
 - Hip Abd/Adduction
 - Wall squats 0-70 degrees
 - Vertical squats 0-60 degrees
 - Lateral step-ups
 - Front and lateral lunges
 - Hamstring curls
 - Balance/proprioception training
 - Biodex stability
 - Squats rocker board
 - Cup walking (step overs)
 - Standing on foam single leg
 - Bicycle (if ROM permits)
 - Pool program (may begin running in pool)
 - Elliptical
- * May be able to begin running if cleared by physician or medical team

III. PHASE III: ADVANCED ACTIVITY PHASE (Weeks 6-8)

Goals: Improve strength and endurance
Maintain full ROM
Gradually increase applied stress

Week 6

- Continue all strengthening exercises listed above (Phase II and III activities) see attached sheet
- May initiate stair stepper if appropriate
- Treadmill walk/run program

Week 7

- Continue strengthening and stretching program

IV. PHASE IV: RETURN TO ACTIVITY PHASE (Week 8 and beyond)

Goals: Improve strength and endurance
Prepare for unrestricted activities

Criteria to progress to Phase IV

- Full non-painful ROM

- No pain or tenderness
- Satisfactory clinical exam
- Satisfactory isokinetic test

Exercises

- Continue and progress all strengthening exercises and stretching drills
- Deep squatting permitted at 4 months
- Initiate straight line running: 4 months
- Initiate pivoting and cutting: 5 months
- Initiate agility training: 5 months
- Gradually return to sports: 6 months