



Indiana University Health

IU Health Physicians Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

EXTENSORY MECHANISM REPAIR SURGERY (PATELLAR TENDON / QUADRICEPS TENDON)

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROTOCOL

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Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

Procedure: Right/Left Patellar/Quad Tendon Repair

___ Evaluate and Treat – no open chain or isokinetic exercises

___ Provide patient with home exercise program



Frequency: _____x/week x _____weeks

___ **Phase I (0-6 wks): *Period of protection. A home-program alone may suffice for this period of time. Formal PT may be helpful after 3 weeks once ROM is initiated in the brace.***

-WBAT with crutches, brace locked in extension *during all weight-bearing activity and during sleep.*

-ROM :

-Knee: patients to perform active prone knee flexion as tolerated 2-3 x per day within the confines of the brace wear. No active extension or forced passive flexion. All ROM should be non-weightbearing and with the brace on, following the progression below:

0-3 wks: Brace locked in full extension (0 degrees).

3-4 wks: Brace unlocked from 0-30 degrees.

4-5 wks: Brace unlocked from 0-60 degrees.

5-6 wks: Brace unlocked from 0-90 degrees.

-Ankle/Hip: ROM exercises 2-3 x per day.

-Strict elevation while seated.

-No quadriceps strengthening until at least 6 wks post-op.

___ **Phase II (6-12 wks): *Begin regular, supervised strengthening and wean from the brace.***

-Wean from crutches, then D/C brace once ambulating with a normal gait and can perform SLR without an extension lag.

-ROM – after 6 weeks postop, brace fully unlocked; advance active and active-assisted ROM as tolerated; gentle passive stretching at end-range. Goal: 0-120 or greater by 12 weeks.

-Strengthening:

-begin isometric quad sets, SLRs

-progress to closed chain strengthening (no open-chain) once out of the brace.

___ **Phase III (3-6 months): *Begin more sport-focused conditioning.***

-Advance strengthening as tolerated, continue closed-chain exercises. Increase resistance on equipment.

-At 5 months, start jogging and progress to agility training and/or other sport-specific rehab as tolerated



-Begin to wean patient from formal supervised therapy encouraging independence with home exercise program by 6 months.

___ **Other:**

___ Modalities

___ Electrical Stimulation

___ Ultrasound

___ Heat before/after

___ Ice before/after exercise

By signing this referral, I certify that I have examined this patient and physical therapy is medically necessary. This patient ___ would ___ would not benefit from social services.

Date: _____

Bryan M. Saltzman, MD