

Dr. Mark Gardner Physical Therapy Protocol

UPMC Parkside Orthopedics

ACL Reconstruction with Meniscus Repair

POST-OP DAYS 1 – 14

- Dressing:
 - POD 1: Debulk dressing, TED Hose in place
 - POD 2: Change dressing, keep wound covered, continue TED Hose
 - POD 7-10: Sutures out, D/C TED Hose when effusion resolved
- Brace x 6 weeks – Locked in extension for ambulation
- Crutches – Partial weight bearing (PWB) in brace
- Patellar mobilization (teach patient)
- Calf pumping
- AAROM 0-90 degrees (passive extension, heel slides with towel assist)
- Passive extension with heel on bolster or prone hangs
- No active Hamstring exercises**
- Electrical stimulation in full extension with quad sets and SLR
- Quad sets
- Straight leg raise (SLR) x 4 on mat (in brace if poor quad control)
- Stationary bike for range of motion 0-90 degrees
- Ice pack with knee in full extension after exercise

GOALS

- Full passive extension
- Flexion to 90 degrees
- Good quad control

Weeks 2 - 4

- Brace x 6 weeks – Open to 0-90 degrees
- Crutches – PWB in brace
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- Scar massage when incision healed
- PROM, AAROM 0-90 degrees only
- No active Hamstring exercises**

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- Co-contractions quads / HS
- SLR x 4 on mat – Add light ankle weights if quad control is maintained
- Double leg heel raises
- Stretches – HS, AT, Hip Flexors, ITB

GOALS

- Pain/effusion control
- No extensor lag

WEEKS 4 - 6

- Brace x 6 weeks – Open to 0-90 degrees
- Crutches – PWB in brace
- Continue appropriate previous exercises

- AAROM, AROM 0-90 degrees only
- Weight shifts
- Mini squats 0-45 degrees – In parallel bars
- Total Gym (level 3-5) – Mini squats 0-45 degrees
 - Passive flexion to 90 degrees (push up with opposite leg)
- Leg press 0-45 degrees with light resistance (up to ¼ body weight)
- Hamstring curls 0-45 degrees – Carpet drags or rolling stool (closed chain)
- Stationary bike with seat high for ROM – Complete cycle as able

GOALS

- ROM 0-90 degrees
- No effusion

WEEKS 6 - 9

- D/C Brace
- Crutches – weight bearing as tolerated (WBAT), D/C when gait is WNL
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- PROM, AAROM, AROM – Gradually increase motion through full range
- Standing SLR x 4 with light Theraband bilaterally
- Wall squats 0-45 degrees
- Leg press 0-60 degrees with light resistance (up to ½ body weight)
- Hamstring curls 0-60 degrees – Carpet drags or rolling stool (closed chain)
- Forward, lateral and retro step downs in parallel bars
 - No knee flexion past 45 degrees (small step)
- Single leg heel raises

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- Proprioceptive training – Single leg standing in parallel bars
 - Double leg BAPS for weight shift
- Treadmill – Forwards and backwards walking
- Stationary bike – Progressive resistance and time
- Pool – Walking / running (no kicking)

GOALS

- Full ROM
- Normal gait

WEEKS 9 - 12

- Continue appropriate previous exercises with progressive resistance
- Wall squats 0-90 degrees
- Leg press 0-90 degrees with resistance as tolerated
- Hamstring curls 0-90 degrees on weight machine with light resistance
- Forward, lateral and retro step downs (medium to large step)
- Hip weight machine x 4 bilaterally
- Proprioceptive training – Single leg BAPS, ball toss and body blade
 - Grid exercises
- Fitter
- Slide board
- Treadmill – Walking progression program
- Elliptical trainer
- Pool therapy – No swimming laps

GOAL

- Walk 2 miles at 15 min/mile pace

MONTHS 3 - 4

- Isokinetic testing at 180 and 300 degrees/sec
- Must have 80% of opposite leg to clear for straight line running
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- No Squatting or Leg press > 90 degrees**
- Hamstring curls on weight machine through full range
- Knee extension weight machine
- Short arc quads
- Functional activities – Figure 8s, gentle loops, large zigzags
- Stairmaster – Small steps

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- Treadmill – Running progression program if cleared
- Pool therapy – Swimming laps

GOAL

- Run 2 miles at easy pace

MONTHS 4 - 6

- Repeat Isokinetic testing as needed
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- Squatting and Leg press through full range as tolerated
- Agility drills / Plyometrics
- Sit-up progression
- Running progression to track
- Quad stretches
- Transition to home / gym program

GOAL

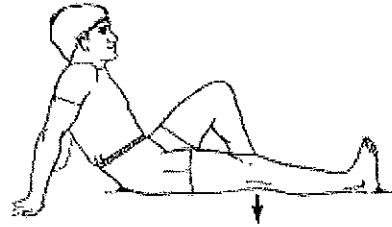
- Return to all activities

****NO CONTACT SPORTS UNTIL 6 MONTHS POST-OP****

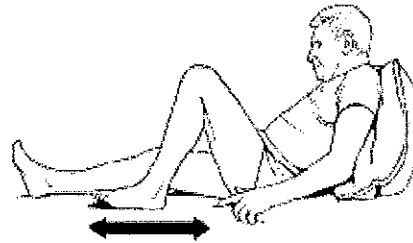
KNEE POST-OP PHASE I

Perform exercises below frequently: 30 reps, 3 – 5x a day

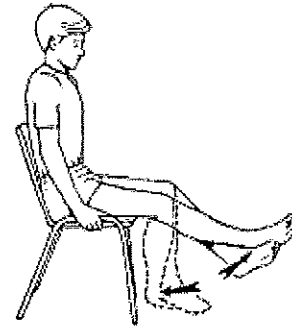
Quad Isometrics



Heel Slides



Active Assisted Motion



Ice Position 15 minutes 2-3 x per day

