

## ARTHROSCOPIC ANTERIOR LABRAL REPAIR IN THE OVERHEAD ATHLETE

### I. Phase I – Immediate Postoperative Phase “Restrictive Motion” (Weeks 0-6)

Goals: Protect the anatomic repair  
Prevent negative effects of immobilization  
Promote dynamic stability and proprioception  
Diminish pain and inflammation

#### Weeks 0-2

- Sling for 4 weeks for daily activities
- Sleep in immobilizer for 4 weeks
- Elbow/hand ROM
- Hand gripping exercises
- Passive and gentle active assistive ROM exercise
  - Flexion to 70 degrees week 1
  - Flexion to 90 degrees week 2
  - ER/IR with arm 30 degrees abduction
    - ER to 5-10 degrees
    - IR to 45 degrees
- **\*\*NO active ER or Extension or Abduction**
- Submaximal isometrics for shoulder musculature
- Rhythmic stabilization drills ER/IR
- Proprioception drills
- Cryotherapy, modalities as indicated

#### Weeks 3-4

- Discontinue use of sling at week 4
- Use immobilizer for sleep **\*\* to be discontinued at 4 weeks unless otherwise directed by physician**
- Continue gentle ROM exercises (PROM and AAROM)
  - Flexion to 125 degrees at end of week 3
  - Flexion to 145 degrees at end of week 4
  - ER/IR at 45 degrees abd in scapular plane
  - ER in scapular plane to 30-35 degrees
  - IR in scapular plane to 55 degrees
- **\*\*NOTE: Rate of progression based on evaluation of the patient**
- No excessive ER, extension or elevation
- Continue isometrics and rhythmic stabilization (submax)
- Initiate ER/IR tubing at 0 degrees of Abduction
- Initiate prone scapular exercises
- Core stabilization program

- Initiate scapular strengthening program

- Continue use of cryotherapy

#### Weeks 5-6

- Gradually improve ROM
  - Flexion to 160 degrees week 5-6
  - ER/IR at 45 degrees abduction during week 5
  - ER/IR at 90 degrees abduction during week 6
- May initiate stretching exercises
- Initiate Throwers' Ten program
- Scapular strengthening

### **II. Phase II – Intermediate Phase: Moderate Protection Phase (Weeks 7-14)**

Goals: Gradually restore full ROM (week 10)  
 Preserve the integrity of the surgical repair  
 Restore muscular strength and balance  
 Enhance neuromuscular control

#### Weeks 7-9

- Gradually progress ROM;
  - Flexion to 180 degrees
  - ER at 90 degrees abduction: 70-80 degrees at week 7
  - ER to 90 degrees at weeks 8-9
  - IR at 90 degrees abduction: 60-65 degrees
- Continue to progress isotonic strengthening program (Throwers' Ten program)
- Continue PNF strengthening

#### Weeks 10-14

- ER at 90 degrees of abduction to 105 degrees at week 10
- ER at 90 degrees of abduction to 115 degrees at week 12
- May initiate slightly more aggressive strengthening
- Progress isotonic strengthening exercises
- Continue all stretching exercises
  - \*\*Progress ROM to functional demands (i.e. overhead athlete)
- Progress to isotonic strengthening (light and restricted ROM)
- Two hand plyometrics at week 10-12
- One hand plyometrics at week 14-15 (light ball)
- Initiate hitting program

### **III. Phase III – Minimal Protection Phase (Week 15-20)**

Goals: Maintain full ROM  
 Improve muscular strength, power and endurance  
 Gradually initiate functional activities  
 Initiate Interval Throwing program

### 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

### Weeks 15-18

- Continue all stretching exercises (capsular stretches)
- Continue strengthening exercises:
  - Throwers ten program or fundamental exercises
  - PNF manual resistance
  - Endurance training
  - Restricted sport activities (light swimming, half golf swings)
- Initiate interval throwing program week 16-18 (long toss program)

### Weeks 18-20

- Continue all exercise listed above
- Process interval sport program (throwing, etc.)

## **IV. Phase IV – Advanced Strengthening Phase (Weeks 21-24)**

Goals: Enhance muscular strength, power and endurance  
Progress functional activities  
Maintain shoulder mobility

### 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

### Weeks 21-24

- Continue flexibility exercises
- Continue isotonic strengthening program
- NM control drills
- Plyometric strengthening
- Progress interval sport programs
- Progress to off the mound throwing at week 22-24

## **V. Phase V – Return to Activity Phase (Months 7-9)**

Goals: Gradual return to sport activities  
Maintain strength, mobility and stability

### Criteria to Enter Phase V

- 1) Full functional ROM
- 2) Satisfactory isokinetic test that fulfills criteria

- 3) Satisfactory shoulder stability
- 4) No pain or tenderness

Exercises

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

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