

## Postoperative Rehabilitative Protocol for Elbow Arthroscopy

### I. Initial Phase (Week 1)

Goal: Full wrist and elbow ROM, decrease swelling, decrease pain, retardation or muscle atrophy

#### A. Day of Surgery

Begin gently moving elbow in bulky dressing

#### B. Post-op Day 1 and 2

1. Remove bulky dressing and replace with elastic bandages
2. Immediate post-op hand, wrist, and elbow exercises
  - a. Putty/grip strengthening
  - b. Wrist flexor stretching
  - c. Wrist extensor stretching
  - d. Wrist curls
  - e. Reverse wrist curls
  - f. Neutral wrist curls
  - g. Pronation/supination
  - h. AIAAROM elbow ext1flex

#### C. Post-op Day 3 through 7

1. PROM elbow ext1flex (motion to tolerance)
2. Begin PRE exercises with 1 lb weight
  - a. Wrist curls
  - b. Reverse wrist curls
  - c. Neutral wrist curls
  - d. Pronation/supination
  - e. Broomstick roll-up

### II. Intermediate Phase (Week 2-4)

Goal: Improve muscular strength and endurance; normalize joint arthrokinematics

#### A. Week 2 Range of Motion exercises (overpressure into extension)

1. Addition of biceps cud and triceps extension
2. Continue to progress PRE weight and repetitions as tolerable

#### B. Week 3

1. Initiate biceps and biceps eccentric exercise program
2. Initiate rotator cuff exercises program
  - a. External rotators
  - b. Internal rotators
  - c. Deltoid
  - d. Supraspinatus
  - e. Scapulothoracic strengthening

### III. Advanced Phase (Week 4-8)

Goals: Preparation of athlete for return to functional activities

\*Criteria to progress to Advanced Phase:

1. Full nonpainful ROM
2. No pain or tenderness
3. Isokinetic test that fulfills criteria to throw
4. Satisfactory clinical exam

#### A. Weeks 4 through 6

1. Continue maintenance program, emphasizing muscular strength, endurance, & flexibility
2. Initiate Interval Throwing Program Phase