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## **MEDIAL COLLATERAL LIGAMENT (MCL) RECONSTRUCTION/ REPAIR POST-OP REHABILITATION PROTOCOL**

The following is a protocol for postoperative patients following MCL reconstruction. The primary goal of this protocol is to protect the reconstruction while steadily progressing towards and ultimately achieving pre-injury level of activity. Please note this protocol is a guideline. Achieving the criteria of each phase should be emphasized more than the approximate duration.

### **PHASE I: 0-2 WEEKS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOALS: • Pain/effusion control

- Good quad control

AMBULATION, DRESSING, AND BRACE USE:

Dressing – POD 1: Debulk dressing, TED Hose in place

– POD 2: Change dressing, keep wound covered

– POD 10-14: Sutures out, Brace x 8 weeks – Locked in extension for ambulation

Crutches – Partial weight bearing (PWB) in brace (no more than 50% of body weight)

EXERCISES: Calf pumping

AAROM, AROM 0-90 degrees

Passive extension with heel on bolster or prone hangs

Electrical stimulation in full extension with quad sets and SLR

Quad sets, Co-contractions quads/hams Straight leg raise (SLR) x 3 on mat in brace – No ADD

Short arc quads

No stationary bike x 6 weeks

Ice pack with knee in full extension after exercise

### **PHASE II: ~2-4 WEEKS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOALS:

- ROM 0-90 degrees

- No extensor lag

AMBULATION AND BRACE USE: Brace x 8 weeks – Open to 0-45 degrees

Crutches – PWB in brace

EXERCISES: Continue appropriate previous exercises  
Scar massage when incision healed  
AAROM, AROM 0-90 degrees only  
Total Gym for ROM (level 1-3)  
– Passive flexion to 90 degrees (push up with opposite leg)  
SLR x 3 on mat, no brace if good quad control – No ADD  
Double leg heel raises  
No stationary bike x 6 weeks Stretches – Hamstring, Hip Flexors, ITB

### **PHASE III: ~4-6 WEEKS POSTOPERATIVE**

#### GOALS:

- ROM 0-120 degrees
- No effusion

AMBULATION AND BRACE USE: Brace x 8 weeks – Open to 0-90 degrees  
Crutches – PWB in brace

#### EXERCISES:

Continue appropriate previous exercises  
AAROM, AROM 0-120 degrees  
Standing SLR x 3 with light Theraband bilaterally  
– May begin Hip ADD with Theraband if good LE control in full extension  
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 resistance up to ¼ body weight  
Hamstring curls 0-45 degrees – Carpet drags or rolling stool (closed chain)  
No stationary bike x 6 weeks

### **PHASE IV: ~6-8 WEEKS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOAL: Full ROM

#### AMBULATION AND BRACE USE:

Brace – Open to full range  
Crutches – Weight bearing as tolerated(WBAT), D/C crutch when gait is normal

#### EXERCISES:

Continue appropriate previous exercises  
PROM, AAROM, AROM to regain full motion  
Standing SLR x 4 with light Theraband bilaterally  
Wall squats 0-45 degrees  
Leg press 0-60 degrees with resistance up to ½ body weight  
Hamstring curls through full range – Carpet drags or rolling stool  
Forward, lateral and retro step downs in parallel bars  
– No knee flexion past 45 degrees (small step) Proprioceptive training – Single leg standing in parallel bars  
– Double leg BAPS for weight shift Single leg heel raises  
Treadmill – Forwards and backwards walking

Stationary bike – Progressive resistance and time  
Elliptical trainer

**PHASE V: ~8-12 WEEKS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOAL: Walk 2 miles at 15min/mile pace

BRACE USE: D/C BRACE

EXERCISES:

Continue appropriate previous exercises with progressive resistance

Leg press 0-90 degrees with resistance as tolerated

Hamstring curls on weight machine

Knee extension weight machine

Forward, lateral and retro step downs (medium to large step)

Proprioceptive training – Single leg BAPS, ball toss and body blade

Treadmill – Walking progression program

Stairmaster – Small steps

Pool therapy

**PHASE VI: ~3-4 MONTHS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOAL: Run 2 miles at an easy pace

EXERCISES: Continue appropriate previous exercises

Fitter

Slide board

Functional activities – Figure 8s, gentle loops, large zigzags

Treadmill – Running progression program

Pool therapy – Swimming laps

Quad stretches

**PHASE VII: ~4-6 MONTHS POSTOPERATIVE**

GOAL: Return to all activities

EXERCISES: Continue appropriate previous exercises

Agility drills / Plyometrics

Sit-up progression

Running progression to track

Transition to home / gym program

**No contact sports until 6 months post-op**