

S/P QUAD/PATELLAR TENDON REPAIR PROTOCOL

Phase I: 0 – 4 weeks

- Hinged knee brace locked in extension at all times (may remove for hygiene purposes)
- Protected weight bearing with crutches for first 2 weeks, then WBAT
- Quadriceps isometric sets in full extension
- Hip abduction straight leg raises
- Ankle ROM and gastoc-soleus strengthening with tubing/therabands

Phase II: Weeks 4 – 8

- Continue hinged brace locked in extension for ambulation, may remove/unlock for therapy
- Begin passive knee extension; active knee flexion to 45°, to 60° @ week 6, then to 90° @ week 8
- Continue previous exercises
- Patella mobilization
- Isometric straight leg raises with brace locked in extension
- Isometric hamstring strengthening

Phase III: Weeks 8 – 12

- May start to unlock brace with ambulation; begin with flexion locked @ 45°, then advance 10°/week as quadriceps control increases
- Continue previous exercises
- Begin AAROM knee extension and advance to AROM knee extension
- Advance active knee flexion to 120°, and then advance as tolerated
- Stationary bicycle, start with no resistance and low knee flexion angle, and then may slowly advance
- At week 10, may begin treadmill walking program

Phase IV: Weeks 12 – 16

- Ambulation with brace fully unlocked, then wean out of brace as tolerated
- Continue previous exercises
- Full active knee ROM
- Begin progressive resistive exercises, avoid open chain and terminal resisted knee extension
- Begin elliptical trainer
- May start light jogging
- Proprioception and balancing exercises

Phase V: Months 5 – 6

- Maintain full knee range of motion
- Continue previous exercises
- Advance cycling, jogging
- Progressive strengthening, plyometric and agility training
- Add sport specific training

Phase VI: Months 6+

- Resume normal sporting/jumping/cutting activities when leg strength >80% contralateral leg
- Maintain strength, agility and proprioception