

## **REHAB PROTOCOL FOR ACL RECONSTRUCTION USING ALLOGRAFT**

### **General Guidelines**

- **Brace**: Locked in full extension for walking and sleeping for first week  
May allow 90 degrees flexion after first week given:
  - 1) Full extension
  - 2) Solid, isometric quad contraction
  - 3) SLRBrace will be worn for 10 weeks to protect graft, 0 to 90 degrees
- **Crutches**: Use at all times ,  
solid, isometric quad set and SLR
- **Weight bearing**: 30 % partial weight bearing
- **Bathing**: Showers allowed after 10 days post-op. Baths allowed after sutures removed at follow up with physician 7-10 days post-op.
- **Driving**: Allowed 1 week after left leg procedures **and** automatic transmission.  
Allowed after 4-6 weeks with right leg procedures or standard transmission.
- **Healing**: Assume 16 weeks for graft revascularization

### **Physical Therapy**

Anticipate 1 visit per week for 2 to 3 weeks' then 2 visits per week for 20 weeks. Return to sport or full workload will take at least 6 months.

### **Rehabilitation Progression**

Progression through these phases is provided as a general guideline; actual progression will take into account the patient's motivation, cooperation, healing and function.

## **Page 2 ACL Patella tendon allograft protocol**

### **Phase I**

0 to 6 weeks

#### **Goals**

- Protect graft and fixation
- Full active extension (compared to uninvolved knee) to 90 degrees flexion
- Control pain and effusion
- Tonic, sustained isometric quad contraction with SLR
- Normal gait pattern

#### **Exercises:**

- Patellar mobilization
- Quad set
- SLR
- Hip adduction SLR
- Hip extension SLR
- Knee flexion (prone)
- Hip abduction SLR
- SAQ (no resistance)
- Knee flexion (standing)
- Shallow squat/Toe raise
- Proprioceptive drills (with uninvolved leg):  
Star reaches, Foam pad, Wobble board
- UE workouts

### **Phase II**

6 to 12 weeks

#### **Criteria**

Sustained quad contraction throughout 4" lateral step down, 5 to 10 reps with good control.

#### **Goals**

- Protect graft
- Discontinue use of brace
- Full active flexion
- Normal gait pattern

## **Page 3 ACL Patella tendon protocol**

### **Exercise**

- PRE's:
  - Hip adduction
  - Hip abduction
  - Hip extension
  - Knee flexion
  - Squats (to 45 degrees knee flexion, loading not to exceed body weight until six weeks post op)
  - Toe raise
  - Leg press (to 90 degrees knee flexion, loading not to exceed body weight until 6 weeks post-op)
- Stairmaster
- Stationary bike
- Proprioceptive drills:
  - Star reaches, Foam pad, Mini tramp, BAPS/Wobble board
  - Step ups/Step downs
- Patellar Mobilization
- Pool exercises:
  - Running (forward and backward), Lunges, Side steps, Carioca, Jumping Jacks, Hopping, Semi squats, Toe Raises

### **Phase III**

8 to 20 weeks

### **Criteria:**

- Normal gait pattern
- Able to perform HS curl within 10 lbs.

### **Goals:**

- Protect graft
- Full AROM
- Increase strength, endurance, proprioception

### **Exercises:**

- PRE's, Aerobic and Proprioceptive drills - Continue progressions from Phase II
- Patellar mobilization

After 10 to 12 weeks with 75% strength on leg press and HS curl (1 RM), add:

- Open chain knee extension (optional) 90 degrees to 45 degrees with supervision, progress to eccentrics
- Forward lunges

## **Page 4 ACL Patella tendon protocol**

- Running - 25% to 50% effort to start, begin on mini-tramp ¼ mile on balls of feet, progress ¼ to ½ mile per week, straight course Backwards running 200 yards per ¼ mile forward running
- Jump rope up to 20 minutes, varying foot work
- Progress to agility drills: Side steps, Cariocas, Figure 8's (20 yards---10 yards), Shuttle runs (alternating front leg for touch downs), Unilateral hops (multi-directional), Lateral slides

### **Phase IV**

20 plus weeks

### **Criteria:**

- Necessary strength, balance and endurance for return to sport or work
- 80% to 100% strengths on leg press, HS curl and knee extension (1 RM)
- Physician clearance

### **Goals:**

- Safe return to pre-injury activities
- Assume independent continued exercise program

### **Exercises:**

- Sport/Work specific drills
- Resistance running
- Plyometrics