

Patellar Tendon Repair

Post-Op Program

Dr. Julius P. Smith, III

POD 1

1. Ankle pumps: 20-25 per hour
2. Active/active assisted knee flexion to 30 degrees as tolerated
3. **Strict NWB.** Brace locked in extension at all times unless performing exercises.
4. Gait with crutches
5. Patellar mobilizations
6. Polar care/cryotherapy
7. Dressing change: remove bulky dressing, leave clear dressing intact
8. Quad sets

POW 1-6

1. Continue as above
2. Start SLR's: start standing, then sitting, then supine
3. May use e-stim to promote quad recruitment
4. Continue active flexion and encourage full extension
5. **Gently begin to start knee flexion at 4 weeks post-op**
6. Gait training with assistive device
7. Begin **WBAT** with **brace locked in extension** at 4 weeks
8. Start the following open chain exercises
 - a. Side lying hip abduction and adduction
 - b. Sitting hip flexion
 - c. Ankle theraband
 - d. Standing hamstring curls to tolerance
9. Encourage upper extremity strengthening for overall conditioning

POW 6-12

1. Continue as above
2. Be sure to advance knee to full ROM starting at 6 weeks
3. **Unlock brace at 8 weeks**
4. **D/C brace at 10 weeks**
5. Aquatic therapy may start at 8 weeks for LE strengthening
6. Stationary bike with low resistance and seat up high to avoid hyperflexion
7. Standing terminal knee extension with theraband
8. May increase resistance on stationary bike at 10 weeks

POW 12-16

1. Begin closed chain knee exercises
ENCOURAGE PROPER TECHNIQUE AT ALL TIMES.
 - a. Single leg stance: level to unlevel surfaces
 - b. Therakicks: progress resistance, speed, arc of motion
 - c. Walking forward, retro, and sidestepping
 - d. Standing calf raises, wobble board
 - e. Wall slides
 - f. Leg press with very light weights at 12 weeks
 - g. Stationary bike
2. Jog Progression
 - a. Fast walk
 - b. High knee march
 - c. Figure 8
 - d. 4-way reaction drill
 - e. Jog
 - f. Continue modalities
 - g. Encourage upper extremity strengthening for overall conditioning

*If you have any problems or questions,
please call your doctor's office (8am-5pm).
Answering service for after hours.*

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POW 16-20

1. Continue as above
2. Progress exercises for building strength and endurance
 - 4-6 sets of 15-20 reps
 - Progress from double to single leg and concentric to eccentric
 - Emphasis on closed chain activities only
- b. Squats, leg press
- c. Lunges (front/side/back)
- d. Step-ups
- e. Leg curls
- f. Hip strengthening
- g. Resisted walking
3. Exercises for balance and proprioception
 - Progress from local to whole body
- b. Mini-tramp
- c. Sport cord
- d. Slide board
- e. Swiss ball
4. Exercises for endurance
- a. Bike
- b. Stairmaster
- c. Elliptical trainer
- d. Treadmill walking
- e. Aquatic exercise

POW 20-return to sport

1. Progress jump roping to line jumps, then box jumps, and then distance jumps
2. Begin sport specific drills
3. Progress speed and intensity of above activities

Return to Athletics Criteria

1. Satisfactory clinical exam
2. <10% isokinetic strength deficit (Leg Press)
3. Completion of sport replication activity
4. Single leg hop test