

ACROMIOCLAVICULAR REPAIR PROTOCOL

Postop

0-3 Weeks

PROM limited: 90° flexion, 90° abduction, 0° external rotation, and 0° extension

Avoid hyperextension of elbow

Sling worn at all times to support glenohumeral joint

1. PROM to tolerance within limitations
2. Postural awareness education
3. Submaximal isometrics for shoulder musculature - avoid forward elevations
4. TheraPutty and light resisted wrist isometrics
5. Soft tissue mobilization as tolerated
6. Ice/Cryo Cuff as needed
7. Cardiovascular exercises - stationary bike, treadmill with arm supported

3-6 Weeks

ROM limited: 120° flexion, 120° abduction, and 30° external rotation

Wean from sling - no active arm swing until after 4 weeks

1. PROM/AAROM (supine wand) to tolerance within limitations
2. Gentle manual resistance for scapular motion
3. Gentle rotator cuff strengthening
4. Gentle joint mobilization to scapula

6-8 Weeks

ROM only limited to 60° external rotation

1. Progress PROM within limitations
2. AAROM/AROM within pain tolerance - seated wand, pulleys, UBE
3. Initiate light resisted elbow flexion and extension
4. Gentle open kinetic chain rhythmic stabilization exercises in supine

8-12 Weeks

ROM limited to 60° external rotation Goal: Full PROM (external rotation to 60°) by 12 weeks

1. AROM with emphasis on quality of motion, avoid shoulder hiking with elevation
2. Strengthening exercises for scapular stabilizers and rotator cuff
3. May include PRE, eccentric rotator cuff, PNF (avoid heavy resistance in painful end ranges), and weight equipment
4. Emphasis of strengthening on high reps and low weight, with postural awareness
5. Progress closed kinetic chain exercises as tolerated
6. Isokinetic at fast speeds blocking end ranges - avoid impingement

12-24 Weeks No ROM limitations

1. Progress to independent strengthening program
2. Reinforce postural awareness, quality of exercise techniques, and proper PRE progression-frequency, duration and intensity
3. Coordinate sports-specific training to begin return to normal function or sport

Goals:

1. Full pain-free AROM
2. Strength 95% of uninjured side
3. Return to full activity or sport without restriction by 24 weeks