



Medial Collateral Ligament Repair/Reconstruction Rehabilitation Protocol

The following is a protocol for post-operative 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. Patients with additional surgery (i.e. meniscal repair) will progress at different rates. Achieving the criteria of each phase should be emphasized more than the approximate duration. If a patient should develop an increase in pain or swelling or decrease in motion at any time, activity should be decreased until problems are resolved.

Post-op Days 1 – 14

- Dressing:
 - POD 1: Debulk dressing
 - POD 2: Change dressing, keep wound covered
- Brace x 8 weeks – Locked in extension for ambulation.
- Crutches – Partial weight bearing (PWB) in brace (no more than 50% of body weight)
- Patella mobilization (teach patient)
- 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 / hamstrings
- Standing 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

Goals

- Pain / effusion control
- Good quad control

Weeks 2 - 4

- Brace x 8 weeks – Open to 0-45 degrees
- Crutches – PWB in brace
- 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 x6 weeks**
- Stretches – Hamstring, Hip Flexors, ITB

Goal

- ROM 0-90 degrees
- No extensor lag

Weeks 4 - 6

- Brace x 8 weeks – Open to 0-90 degrees
- Crutches – PWB in brace
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- AAROM, AROM 0-120 degrees
- Standing SLR x3 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 body weight
- Hamstring curls 0-45 degrees – Carpet drags or rolling stool (closed chain)
- **No stationary bike x6 weeks**

Goals

- ROM 0-120 degrees
- No effusion

Weeks 6-8

- Brace – Open to full range
- Crutches – Weight bearing as tolerated (WBAT), D/C crutch when gait is normal
- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- PROM, AAROM, AROM to regain full motion
- Standing SLR x4 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

Goal

- Full ROM

Weeks 8 - 12

- D/C brace
- 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, Grid exercises
- Treadmill – Walking progression program

- Stairmaster – Small steps
- Pool therapy

Goal

- Walk 2 miles at 15 min/mile pace

Months 3 - 4

- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- Fitter
- Slide board
- Functional activities – Figure 8's, gentle loops, large zigzags
- Treadmill – Running progression program
- Pool therapy – Swimming laps
- Quad stretches

Goal

- Run 2 miles at easy pace
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Months 4- 6

- Continue appropriate previous exercises
- Agility drills / Plyometrics
- Sit-up progression
- Running progression to track
- Transition to home / gym program

Goal

- Return to all activities

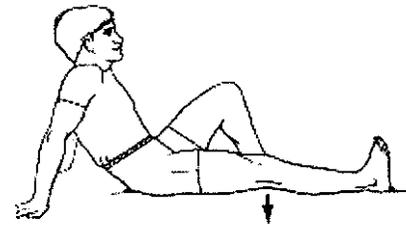
****NO CONTACT SPORTS UNTIL 6 MONTHS POST-OP****



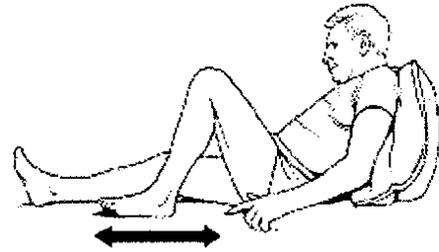
KNEE POST-OP PHASE I

Perform exercises below frequently: 30 reps, 3 – 5x a day

Quad Isometrics



Heel Slides



Active Assisted Motion



Ice Position 15 minutes 2-3 x per day

