

## Rehabilitation Protocol: Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phase I (Weeks 0-4)**

- Sling immobilization with supporting abduction pillow to be worn at all times except for showering and rehab under guidance of PT (if instructed to start before 6 weeks postsurgery)

***If physician wants therapy to start before 4 weeks post op:***

- Range of Motion – True Passive Range of Motion Only to Patient Tolerance
  - Goals: 140° Forward Flexion, 40° External Rotation with elbow at side, 60-80° Abduction without rotation, Limit Internal Rotation to 40° with the shoulder in the 60-80° abducted position
  - Maintain elbow at or anterior to mid-axillary line when patient is supine
- Therapeutic Exercise – No canes or pulleys during this phase
  - Codman Exercises/Pendulums
  - Elbow/Wrist/Hand Range of Motion and Grip Strengthening
  - Isometric Scapular Stabilization
- Heat/Ice before and after PT sessions

**Phase II (Weeks 4-8)**

- Discontinue sling immobilization at 6 weeks post surgery
- Range of Motion
  - **4-6 weeks:** Gentle passive stretch to reach ROM goals from Phase I
  - **6-8 weeks:** Begin AAROM → AROM as tolerated
- Therapeutic Exercise
  - **4-8 weeks:** Begin gentle AAROM exercises (supine position), gentle joint mobilizations (grades I and II), continue with Phase I exercises

**Phase III (Weeks 8-12)**

- Range of Motion – Progress to full AROM without discomfort
- Therapeutic Exercise
  - Continue with scapular strengthening
  - Continue and progress with Phase II exercises
  - Begin Internal/External Rotation Isometrics
  - Stretch posterior capsule when arm is warmed-up
- Modalities per PT discretion



**Aaron M. Gipsman, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Sports Medicine  
626-517-0022

**Phase IV (Months 3-6)**

- Range of Motion – Full without discomfort
- Therapeutic Exercise – Advance strengthening as tolerated starting at 4 months: isometrics → therabands → light weights (1-5 lbs),
  - 8-12 repetitions/2-3 sets for Rotator Cuff, Deltoid and Scapular Stabilizers
  - Return to sports at 6 months if approved
- Modalities per PT discretion
- No strengthening or resistance exercises until 4 months post-op.

**Comments:**

**\*\*IF BICEPS TENODESIS WAS PERFORMED - NO BICEPS STRENGTHENING UNTIL 8 WEEKS POST-OP**

**Frequency:** \_\_\_\_\_ times per week

**Duration:** \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_