



**ARTHROSCOPIC SHOULDER SURGERY
REHABILITATION PROTOCOL**
SLAP/Posterior Labral Repair

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The local anesthetic (similar to novacaine) in your shoulder will last 6-12 hours
 - Start taking the pain medication as soon as you start feeling pain
- Use cryotherapy continuously for the first 72 hours, then as-needed thereafter
 - Ensure that the cryotherapy cuff never contacts the skin directly
 - Apply to the shoulder after performing rehab exercises for the first 12 weeks
- Remove the bandage 72 hours after surgery, but leave the white steritrips on the skin
 - Apply fresh gauze pad or bandaid to any incision that is moist or weeping
- You may shower after dressing removal as long as the incisions/steritrips are dry
 - All incisions must be completely dry for 24 hours before getting wet in shower
 - Do NOT submerge the shoulder underwater for the first 6 weeks
- The sling is for comfort and to protect the repair.
 - Wear the sling for the first 6 weeks, removing it for exercises and showers
 - Wear the sling when out of the house for the first 8 weeks
- Schedule a follow-up appointment for one week after surgery 410-448-6400

PHASE I

Begins immediately post-op through the first postoperative visit (2 weeks)

Goals:

- Protect the shoulder and minimize inflammation
- Ensure skin healing
- Initiate early range of motion

Sling:

- Wear the sling full-time, removing only for shower and exercises
- May type or write in the sling.
- No holding or carrying anything heavier than a pen/pencil

Therapeutic Exercises (remove sling to perform 2 times per day):

- *External rotation stretching.* Use the uninvolved arm to passively rotate the hand/arm on the surgical side to the outside (away from the belly).

PHASE II

Begins 2 weeks postoperatively and extends to 4 weeks postoperatively

Goals:

- Protect the shoulder and the repair
- Regain shoulder motion

Sling:

- Wear the sling full-time, removing only for shower and exercises
- May type or write in the sling.
- No holding/carrying anything heavier than a pen/pencil

Therapeutic Exercises (3 times per day):

- All exercises from phase I
- *Wall-climb and/or pulley assisted elevation in scapular plane* (limit 120 degrees)
- *Scapular retractions*
- *NO internal rotation or adduction*

PHASE III

Begins 4 weeks postoperatively and extends to 8 weeks postoperatively

Goals:

- Protect the repair
- improve range of motion
- Progress to active range of motion while minimizing inflammation

Sling:

- Discontinue the sling at home after 4 weeks
- Wear the sling outside of the home for the first 5 weeks

Activities:

- No lifting or carrying anything heavier than a cup of coffee or can of soda

Therapeutic Exercises (2 times per day):

- All exercises from Phase II daily
- *Wall-climb and/or pulley assisted elevation in scapular plane* (limit 160 degrees)
- *Supported active shoulder external rotation*
- Active-assisted elevation in abduction
- Active prone elevations (forward, scapular-plane, lateral/abduction, extension)

PHASE IV

Begins 8 weeks postoperatively and extends to 12 weeks postoperatively

Goals:

- Protect the repair

- Maximize range of motion
- Initiate active range of motion while minimizing inflammation

Activities:

- No lifting or carrying anything heavier than 5 lbs

Therapeutic Exercises (2 times per day):

- All exercises from Phase III daily
- Stretching in all planes
- *Cross-body stretch*
- *Hands-behind-head stretch*
- Progressive *Theraband* strengthening in all planes

PHASE V

Begins 12 weeks postoperatively until 18 weeks postoperatively

Criteria for advancement to Phase IV:

- Full, painless range of motion

Activities:

- No holding or carrying anything heavier than 5 pounds
- No lifting anything heavier than 1 pound away from your body

Goals:

- progress early functional strengthening
- Protect the repair

Therapeutic Exercises (stretching every day, strengthening every other day):

- All exercises from Phase IV
- Stretching in all planes
- Progressive theraband strengthening
- Initiate weight training with shoulders in adduction (no presses)
 - Rows, biceps, triceps

PHASE VI

Begins 18 weeks postoperatively

Goals:

- Maximize functional strength

Therapeutic Exercises:

- All exercises from Phase V
- progressive dynamic strengthening

RETURN TO SPORT

Requires clearance from physician

Sport training/practice once shoulder at 90% of uninvolved side

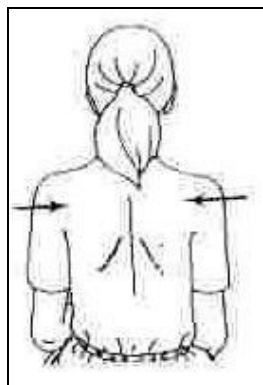
- Start with 'walk-through' at < 1% of maximum effort
- Increase 10% effort each session as tolerated

Goal of return to full participation in contact sports at 7 months

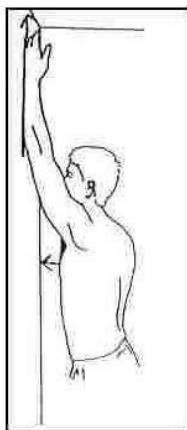
Selected Exercise Diagrams (Phase 1 and 2)



External rotation stretching



Scapular retractions



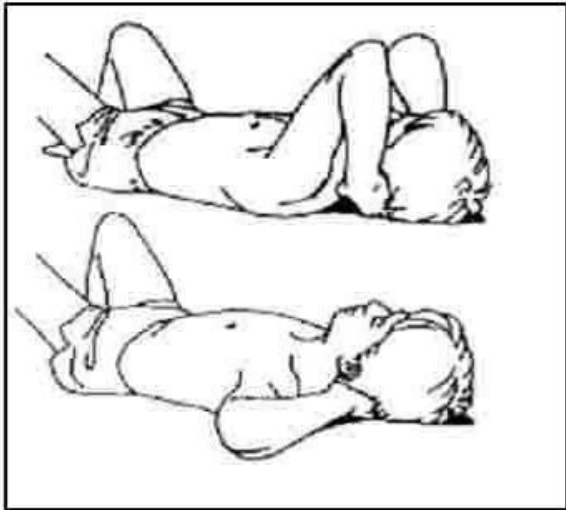
Wall climb

Selected Exercise Diagrams (Phase 3)



Supported active shoulder rotation

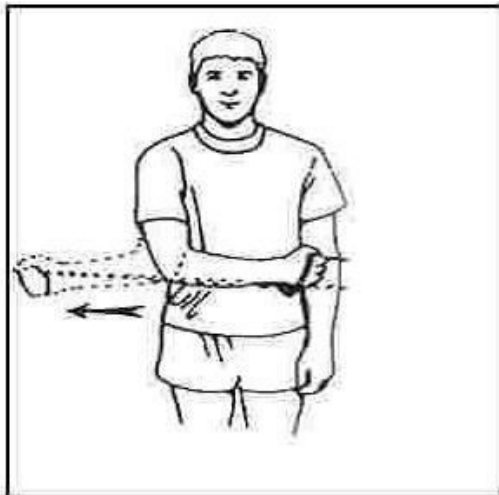
Selected Exercise Diagrams (Phase 4)



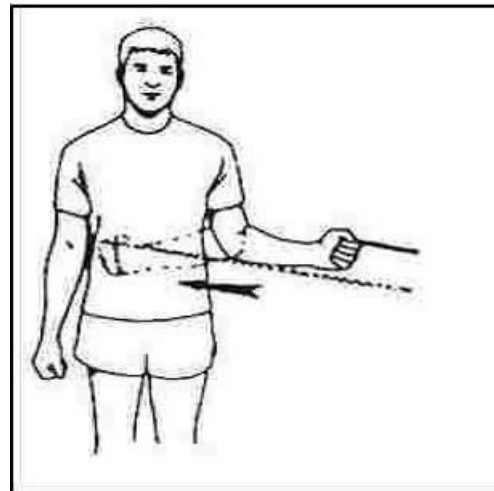
Hands-behind-head stretch
External rotation stretching in abduction/elevation



Cross-body stretching



Theraband external rotation



Theraband internal rotation