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BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

RECOVERY GUIDE FOR:

ACL RECONSTRUCTION

WITH SIMPLE MENISCAL REPAIR



OUR GOAL:

Relieve pain, restore knee function, improve mobility, and help you return to the activities you love.

KEY POINTS



Activity:

Flat foot weight bearing (no weight through extremity, rest on ground only) for 2 weeks. Use crutch and brace during this time.



Motion:

You should limit your knee motion between 0° (straight) and 90° (bent) for the first 6 weeks. After 6 weeks, full knee motion.



Wound Care and Bathing:

You should keep bandage on for 4 days. After that it may be removed and you can shower. Warm soapy water runs over the incision. Pat dry. Leave open to air. No submerging.



Early Knee Motion:

Do not place pillow underneath your knee. Place pillow underneath ankle and let knee "float" Goal for full extension by 1 week. Flexion to 90° by 2 weeks, 120° by 8 weeks

YOUR RECOVERY TIMELINE



PHASE I 0 – 2 WEEKS

Focus: pain and swelling control, walking daily

Goals:

- ✓ Knee motion 0 to 90° FFWB, +Brace, +Crutch
- ✓ Work with therapist Ice, Pain control

Activities:

- Heel slides, SLR
- Stationary bicycle



PHASE II 2 – 6 WEEKS

Focus: Being partial weight bearing, protect repair, early motion

Goals:

- ✓ Knee motion 0 to 90° FFWB, +Brace, +Crutch
- ✓ Unlock brace ~2 weeks 50% weight at ~4 weeks

Activities:

- No open chain
- Stationary bicycle
- Mini squats



PHASE III 6 – 12 WEEKS

Focus: Begin full weight bearing, full motion

Goals:

- ✓ Knee motion 0 to 120° WBAT, +Brace
- ✓ Stop crutch by week 8 Wean brace by week 8

Activities:

- No open chain
- Body squats, stairs
- BFR, Scar massage



PHASE IV 3 – 6 MONTHS

Focus: return to running, all activities except competition

Goals:

- ✓ Walk to jog to run plyometric
- ✓ Sport specific strengthening

Activities:

- Competitive athletics at 12 months postop
- Consider ACL sports brace

⌚ Time frames are guidelines. Everyone heals at a different rate. Your progress will determine how quickly you move to the next phase.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Postop Day 1-3

Surgical pain significantly improves



Postop Day 3-14

Meet with therapist to establish PT/OT treatment plan



Postop Week 2-3

Follow up appointment and wound check



Postop Week 6-8

Follow up appointment and x-ray if necessary.



Postop Week 12-16

Follow up appointment, function check and schedule additional appointments if necessary

HELP YOUR RECOVERY



ICE AND ELEVATE

15-20 minutes, several time per day



STAY HYDRATED & EAT WELL

Good nutrition supports healing. Minimize sugar, optimize protein



GET QUALITY SLEEP

You body heals while you rest



DO YOUR HOME EXERCISES

They are key to your success



LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

It's normal to have ups and downs. Pain and swelling should guide your activity level.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE:



Fever over 101F



Redness, drainage, or warmth at incision site



Shortness of breath, chest pain, calf pain



Increased pain not relieved by pain medicine



Numbness, tingling or loss of movement in your extremity

Your Notes:

Your Partners in Recovery:

Your surgeon and physical/occupational therapy team are here to support you every step of the way. Don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.