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Anterior Capsular Shift Rehabilitation Protocol (Accelerated)

This rehabilitation program's goal is to return the patient/athlete to their activity/sport as quickly and safely as possible, while maintaining a stable shoulder. The program is based on muscle physiology, biomechanics, anatomy and the healing process following surgery for a capsular shift.

The capsular shift procedure is one where the orthopedic surgeon makes an incision into the ligamentous capsule of the shoulder and pulls the capsule tighter and then sutures the capsule together.

The ultimate goal is a functional stable shoulder and a return to a pre-surgery functional level.

I. Phase I – Protection Phase (Week 0-6)

Goals: Allow healing of sutured capsule
Begin early protected range of motion
Retard muscular atrophy
Decrease pain/inflammation

A. Week 0-2

Precautions:

1. Sleep in immobilizer for 4 weeks
2. No overhead activities for 4-6 weeks
3. Wean from immobilizer and into sling as soon as possible (orthopedist or therapist will tell you when)

Exercises:

- Gripping exercises with putty
- Elbow flex/extension and pronation/supination
- Pendulum exercises (non-weighted)
- Rope & Pulley active assisted exercises
 - Shoulder flexion to 90 degrees
 - Shoulder abduction to 60 degrees
- T-Bar exercises
 - External rotation to 15-20 degrees with arm abducted at 40 degrees
 - Shoulder flexion/extension to tolerance
- AROM cervical spine
- Isometrics
 - Flexors, extensors, ER, IR, ABD

Criteria for Hospital Discharge:

1. Shoulder range of motion (AAROM) flexion 90 degrees, abduction 45 degrees, and ER 40 degrees
2. Minimal pain and swelling
3. "Good" proximal and distal muscle power

B. Week 2-4

Goals:

Gradual increase in ROM
Normalize arthrokinematics
Improve strength
Decrease pain/inflammation

1. Range of motion exercises
 - T-Bar active assisted exercises
 - ER @ 40 degrees ABD to 45 degrees
 - IR @ 40 degrees ABD to 45 degrees
 - Shoulder flex/ext to tolerance
 - Shoulder abduction to tolerance
 - Shoulder horizontal ABD/ADD
 - Rope & Pulley flex/ext

* All exercises performed to tolerance

 - Take to point of pain and /or resistance and hold
 - Gentle self capsular stretches
2. Gentle joint mobilization to re-establish normal arthrokinematics to:
 - Scapulothoracic joint
 - Glenohumeral joint
 - Sternoclavicular joint
3. Strengthening exercises
 - Isometrics
 - May initiate tubing for ER/IR at 0 degrees
4. Conditioning program for:
 - Trunk
 - Lower extremities
 - Cardiovascular
5. Decrease pain/inflammation
 - Ice, NSAID, modalities

C. Week 5

AAROM flexion to 125 degrees
IR/ER @ 45 degrees ABD to tolerance
Initiate isotonic (light wt.) strengthening

Gentle joint mobilization (Grade III)

D. Week 6

AAROM; Continue all stretching exercises
Progress ER/IR @ 90 degrees abduction

II. Phase II – Intermediate Phase (Week 7-12)

Goals: Full non-painful ROM at week 8-10
Normalize arthrokinematics
Increase strength
Improve neuromuscular control

A. Week 7-10

1. Range of motion exercise
T-Bar active assisted exercises
Continue all exercises listed above
Gradually increase ROM to full ROM week 8 to 10
Continue self-capsular stretches
Continue joint mobilization

2. Strengthening Exercises
Initiate isotonic dumbbell program
 - Side lying ER
 - Side lying IR
 - Shoulder abduction
 - Supraspinatus
 - Latissimus dorsi
 - Rhomboids
 - Biceps curls
 - Triceps curls
 - Shoulder shrugs
 - Push-ups into chair (serratus anterior)

Continue tubing at 0 degrees for ER/IR

3. Initiate Neuromuscular Control Exercises for Scapulothoracic Joint

B. Week 10-12

1. Continue all exercises listed above
2. Initiate tubing exercises for rhomboids, latissimus dorsi, biceps and triceps
3. Initiate aggressive stretching and joint mobilization, if needed

III. Phase III – Dynamic Strengthening Phase (Week 12-20)

Advanced Strengthening Phase

A. Week 12-17

Goals: Improve strength/power/endurance
Improve neuromuscular control
Prepare athlete to begin to throw

1. Criteria to Enter Phase III:
 - a. Full non-painful ROM
 - b. No pain or tenderness
 - c. Strength 70% or better compared to contralateral side

Emphasis of Phase III:

- High speed; high energy strengthening exercises
- Eccentric exercises
- Diagonal patterns

Exercises:

Throwers Ten Exercises:

- Initiate tubing exercises in 90/90 position for IR/ER (slow sets, fast sets)
- Tubing for rhomboids
- Tubing for latissimus dorsi
- Tubing for biceps
- Tubing for diagonal patterns D2 extension
- Tubing for diagonal patterns D2 flexion
- Continue dumbbell exercises for supraspinatus and deltoid
- Continue serratus anterior strengthening exercises push-ups floor

2. Continue trunk/LE strengthening exercises
3. Continue neuromuscular exercises
4. Continue self capsular stretches

B. Week 17-20

- Continue all exercises above
- Initiate plyometrics for shoulder
- ER at 90 degrees ABD
- IR at 90 degrees ABD
- D2 extension plyometrics
- Biceps plyometrics
- Serratus anterior plyometrics

IV. Phase IV – Throwing Phase (Week 20-26)

Goals: Progressively increase activities to prepare patient for full functional return

Criteria to Progress to Phase IV:

1. Full ROM

2. No pain or tenderness
3. Isokinetic test that fulfills criteria to throw
4. Satisfactory clinical exam

Exercise:

- Initiate interval throwing program
- Continue throwers ten exercises
- Continue plyometric five exercises

A. Interval Throwing Program at 20th week

1. Interval Throwing Program Phase II – 24th week

B. Return to Sports 26-30 weeks