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COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY

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Ulnar Collateral Ligament Reconstruction
Post-Operative Protocol

Post-Op – Week 1 (Day 1- Day 7):

Splint is worn for one week at 90 degrees
 Gripping exercises with a soft ball or rolled towel the day after surgery
 Finger and wrist AROM (NO RESTRICTION) if splint allows.
 Full non-painful AROM: supination, pronation, radial & ulnar deviation
 Very light stretch of wrist & fingers
 Isometric exercises: Shoulder (NO ER); Bicep
 Knee PROM (if gracilis graft)
 Use crutch PRN for 3-5 days (if gracilis graft)
 Day 3- Day 6: Initiate recumbent bike (very light work; no sweating)

Week 2 (Day 8 – Day 14):

*Day 8- Day 10: Brace ROM set to 0-120 degrees at post-op visit (this setting used for 5 weeks)
 3 times per day: out of brace to work on elbow extension
 Continue exercises above
 Isometric exercises: Add elbow extension
 Low level abdominal exercises (NO UPPER EXTREMITY USE)

Week 3 (Day 15 – Day 21):

Light hamstring stretch (if gracilis graft)
 Light hamstring isometrics (if gracilis graft)
 Progress to light wrist stretching (if palmaris longus)
 Progress abdominal/core strengthening exercises (NO UPPER EXTREMITY USE)
 Shoulder AROM (BRACE ON; NO WEIGHT)
 Full can
 Abduction
 ER/IR (wrist neutral – very light resistance)
 Elbow flexion/extension (no more than 1lb.)
 Scapular retraction-rows (sitting, forearms on table, wrist in neutral)
 Light scapular strengthening
 Lower extremity exercises (NO RESISTANCE THROUGH THE ARM)
 Straight leg raise
 Hip abduction/adduction
 Hip IR/ER
 Upright, stationary bike (may start sweating during activity)
 Light scar massage over graft site/distal incision as soon as incision is closed for at least two days

Week 4 (Day 21 – Day 28): *See attached for Shoulder and Scapula Programs*

Program 1: Shoulder – Exercises 1, 2 & 7 (no more than 1 lb.)
 Program 2: Shoulder – Exercises 1, 2, & 3 (no weight)
 Program 4: Scapula – Exercises 5, 6, 7 & 8 (no weight; palm down/forearm neutral)
 Wrist exercises
 Flexion/Extension
 Supination/Pronation
 Radial/Ulnar deviation

Elbow Flexion/Extension (progress to 2 lbs.)

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Leg machine exercises (NO HOLDING WITH ARM; NO PRESSURE/PULSING IN ARM)

Week 5 (Day 28 – Day 35):

Progress previous Shoulder and Scapula exercises in Programs 1, 2 and 4 by 1 lb.
 Progress elbow flexion/extension to 3 lbs.
 UBE: No resistance

Week 6 (Day 36- Day 42):

Discontinue brace at 6 weeks post-op (42 days)
 Progress previous Shoulder and Scapula exercises in Programs 1, 2 and 4 by an additional 1lb.
 Progress other allowed exercises to 4-5 lbs.
 Increase lower extremity exercises to medium intensity
 Progress lower extremity exercises (if gracilis graft). Progress as tolerated.
 UBE: Gradually progress resistance as tolerated

Week 7 (Day 43 - Day 49):

Initiate light manual ROM with elbow protected (SHOULD NOT HAVE PAIN)
 Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist/forearm
 Progress elbow flexion and extension to 5-7 lbs.
 Initiate shoulder ER exercises to complement existing Shoulder/Scapular exercises
 Program 1: Shoulder (may perform all exercises; see attached Program)
 Program 4: Scapula (may perform all exercises: see attached Program)

Week 8 (Day 50 – Day 56):

- Initiate Throwers Ten Exercise Program
- 1A. Diagonal Pattern D2 Extension
 - 1B. Diagonal Pattern D2 Flexion
 - 2A. External Rotation at 0 degrees Abduction
 - 2B. Internal Rotation at 0 degrees Abduction
 3. Shoulder Abduction to 90 degrees
 4. Scaption, Full can
 5. Sidelying External Rotation
 - 6A. Prone Horizontal Abduction (Neutral)
 - 6B. Prone Horizontal Abduction (Full ER, 100 degrees Abduction)
 - 6C. Prone Rows
 - 6D. Prone Rows into External Rotation
 7. Press-ups
 8. Push-ups (start on wall and progress to floor)
 - 9A. Elbow Flexion
 - 9B. Elbow Extension (Abduction)
 - 10A. Wrist Extension
 - 10B. Wrist Flexion
 - 10C. Supination
 - 10D. Pronation

Progress manual ROM to medium intensity
 May initiate eccentric loading

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May start treadmill jogging

Week 9 (Day 57 - Day 63):

Continue Throwers Ten Program
 2-handed plyometrics (ie: chest pass, side-to-side)
 Gradually progress treadmill jogging to outdoor jogging

Week 10 (Day 64 – Day 70):

Continue Throwers Ten Program
 Outside agility and low-level, lower body plyometric activities
 Initiate bodyblade exercises
 (ONLY BELOW 90 degrees of shoulder flexion &/or abduction with elbow straight. Can perform shoulder ER/IR at 0 degrees of shoulder flexion & abduction)

Week 11 (Day 71 – Day 77):

Continue Throwers Ten Program
 Progress the 2-handed plyometrics (ie: overhead soccer throws, overhead throw downs, side-chops)

Week 12 (Day 78 – Day 91):

Continue Throwers Ten Program
 Initiate large muscle groups with machine exercises (ie: bench press, lat pull-downs)
 Progress to running if there is no swelling or pain
 May start swimming

Week 13 (Day 92 – Day 98):

Continue Throwers Ten Program and Shoulder/Scapula Exercises
 Initiate high repetition (30), light weight dumbbell exercises for the upper extremity
 Progress upper extremity machine work to medium weight and reps of 20
 May golf

Week 14 (Day 99 – Day 105):

Continue Throwers Ten Program, adding ER/IR at 90 degrees Abduction and Empty Can exercises
 Program 2: Shoulder (may perform all exercises: see attached Program)
 Program 3: Shoulder (may perform all exercises: see attached Program)
 1-handed plyometric (ie: wall dribble, deceleration catch, 90/90 throw)

Week 15 (Day 106 – Day 112):

Continue Throwers Ten Program and Shoulder/Scapula Exercises
 Progress to medium weight dumbbell exercises for the upper extremity with repetitions of 20

Week 16 (Day 113 – Day 119):

Continue Throwers Ten Program and Shoulder/Scapula Exercises
 Positional player may initiate interval hitting program

Week 17 – Week 21 (Day 120 – Day 154):

Continue Throwers Ten Program and Shoulder/Scapula Exercises
 *May return to normal training at Week 17 Post-Op

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Continue to work on strength, power and endurance

Week 22 (Days 155 & beyond):

Continue Throwers Ten Program and Shoulder/Scapula Exercises
 Initiate Rehabilitative Throwing Program

Revised 4/2016