

Women's College Hospital, 4th Floor, 76 Grenville Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1B2

T: 416-323-6318 F:

Jas Chahal MD, FRCSC

Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy

Special Interest: Biologics | Cartilage Restoration

Assistant Professor | Department of Surgery

University of Toronto

ROTATOR CUFF REHAB PROTOCOL

Diagnosis:

Date of Surgery:

Frequency: 1 2 3 4 times/week **Duration:** 1 2 3 4 5 6 Weeks

Weeks 0-1:

- Patient to do Home Exercises given post-op (pendulums, elbow ROM, wrist ROM, grip strengthening)
- Patient to remain in splint for 6 weeks

Weeks 1-6:

- True PROM only! The rotator cuff tendon needs to heal back into the bone
- ROM goals: 140° FF/40° ER at side; ABD max 60-80° without rotation
- No resisted motions of shoulder until 12 weeks post-op
- Grip strengthening
- No canes/pulleys until 6 weeks post-op, because these are active-assist exercises
- Heat before PT, ice after PT

Weeks 6-12:

- Begin AAROM → AROM as tolerated
- Goals: Same as above, but can increase as tolerated
- Light passive stretching at end ranges
- Begin scapular exercises, PRE's for large muscle groups (pecs, lats, etc)
- At 8 weeks, can begin strengthening/resisted motions
- Isometrics with arm at side beginning at 8 weeks

Months 3-12:

- Advance to full ROM as tolerated with passive stretching at end ranges
- Advance strengthening as tolerated: isometrics → bands → light weights (1-5 lbs); 8-12 reps/2-3 sets per rotator cuff, deltoid, and scapular stabilizers
- Only do strengthening 3x/week to avoid rotator cuff tendonitis
- Begin eccentrically resisted motions, plyometrics (ex. Weighted ball toss), proprioception (es. body blade)
- Begin sports related rehab at 4 ½ months, including advanced conditioning
- Return to throwing at 6 months
- Throw from pitcher's mound at 9 months
- Collision sports at 9 months
- MMI is usually at 12 months post-op

Comments:

___ Functional Capacity Evaluation ___ Work Hardening/Work Conditioning ___ Teach HEP

Modalities:

___ Electric Stimulation ___ Ultrasound ___ Iontophoresis ___ Phonophoresis ___ Heat before/after

Ice before/after ___ Trigger points massage ___ TENS ___ Other _____