



## **SHOULDER REHABILITATION GUIDELINES FOR SLAP REPAIR(SUPERIOR LABRAL ANTERIOR-POSTERIOR)**

The biceps tendon and/or superior labrum has been reattached. Other surgery may have been involved such as open rotator cuff repair, or A/C joint resection or labral reattachment. Smoking is discouraged for 6 weeks post-operatively to promote healing. Weight loss is encouraged when appropriate to decrease tissue stretching.

*Sometimes multiple simultaneous procedures are performed on the shoulder. In this event, the driving surgery should take precedence over the other procedures in terms of rehabilitation in the following order: posterior capsular stabilization(arthroscopic)>rotator cuff repair>anterior capsulorrhaphy(arthroscopic)>SLAP repair>anterior capsulorrhaphy or Bankart repair(open)>total shoulder replacement or hemiarthroplasty>biceps tenodesis>adhesive capsulitis MUA or resection>subacromial decompression.*

Stage 1A(day 1-4 weeks): The immobilizer stays on at all time when not exercising. Gravity pendulum exercises (60 seconds--4x/day); swing front to back and side to side. Advance to circular gravity swing(clockwise for left shoulder and counterclockwise for right shoulder). Place back in immobilizer when not exercising except to shower. Release wrist strap 4x/day x 60 seconds to bend and extend elbow, then reattach. Do not externally rotate beyond neutral with the elbow at the side. Begin gripping exercises with ball or putty. Cervical spine AROM.

Stage 2(4-8 weeks): Can wall climb forward and lateral to 135 degrees 4x/day (or 4-6 weeks if modification is checked above). Can passively or actively externally rotate up to 30 degrees at side and 90 abduction. Submaximal isometrics may be started. If these motions are achieved: PRE and 1-2 pounds strengthening can be initiated. Shoulder shrugs and ROM retraining, no passive stretching beyond above limits; postural retraining. Can initiate deltoid strengthening, elastic tubing or Theraband or free weights, wall pulleys.

Stage 3(6-8 weeks): Can initiate peri-scapular, deltoid, biceps, triceps strengthening with elastic tubing, free weights, wall pulleys. Range of motion is tolerated. Emphasize posture, scapular stabilization (protraction, retraction, and elevation), and external/internal muscular endurance.

Stage 3(8 weeks-12 weeks): Advance to home program or self directed gym program, teaching PNF patterns, upright rows, shoulder strengthening and endurance. You may monitor this 1-2 x/month and

make adjustments. Patient should avoid overhead activities and vibration. Patient may gradually progress up to lifting, pushing, pulling up to 50% of “normal” load. Range of motion is tolerated.

Stage 4(12 weeks and beyond): Patient gradually progress to lifting, pushing, pulling up to 100% over the course of the next 4 weeks. Patient may progress to overhead activities by 4 months post-operative. Start functional rehabilitation for throwing or other functional rehabilitation programs or work conditioning, as necessary. Range of motion is tolerated.

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