

# **Arthroscopic Subacromial Decompression Protocol**

# **BICEPS TENODESIS PRECAUTIONS:**

- 1. No Resisted elbow flexion for 8 weeks
- 2. No Resisted shoulder flexion for 8 weeks
- 3. No Lifting of anything over 1 to 2 pounds for 8 weeks.

# **General Principles**

Only follow if

- 1. Control pain and inflammation
- 2. Prevent negative effects of immobilization
- 3. Progress patient a tolerated
- 4. Increase ROM to **full AROM and PROM by 4 6 weeks**

## I. Phase I – Immediate Motion Phase (Weeks 1 –2)

## A. Week 1 (Active Assisted)

- 1. Sling for comfort (Wean from sling after 7 days post op)
- 2. Pendulum
- 3. PROM (to patient tolerance)
- 4. AAROM (begin rotation exercise at 0° ABD and progress to 90°)
  - a. Supine flexion
  - b. Supine ER with stick
  - c. Pulley (to patient tolerance)
  - d. Standing Extension with stick (only for intact rotator cuff)
- 5. Scapular retractions
- 6. Grip and Wrist strengthening
- 7. AROM: cervical, elbow, wrist, and hand

#### B. Week 2 (AROM and isometrics)

- 1. Continue PROM/AAROM
- 2. Pulley: flexion, abduction, and eccentric control
- 3. AROM:
  - a. Supine Flexion with stick
  - b. Supine Flexion single arm
  - c. Sidelying ER
  - d. Prone Extension
  - e. Slide arm up wall
- 4. RROM:
  - a. Biceps curls with dumbbells (as long as no biceps precautions)
  - b. Triceps extension (theraband or cable cross)
  - c. Wrist strengthening all directions
- 5. Begin isometrics: (submaximal)
  - a. ER, IR, ABD, Flex, Ext

<sup>\*</sup> Developed and approved by Rolando Izquierdo, M.D. (Updated March 2016)



# II. Phase II – Intermediate Phase (weeks 3 – 6)

## A. Week 3 (Advanced Stretching and Isotonic Strengthening)

**Goals:** Full AROM should be achieved by 4 weeks

- 1. Continue above exercises
- 2. Stretching (avoid painful impingement)
  - a. Posterior/Inferior capsule stretch
  - b. Joint mobilizations
  - c. IR stretch with towel
  - d. Standing 90/90 in corner
  - e. Hand over the door hang
  - f. Supine ER stretch progress to 90° ABD
- 3. AROM (Add light weight when patient can perform 10 reps without pain)
  - a. Supine IR/ER
  - b. Standing flexion
  - c. Standing Supraspinatus
  - d. Prone Extension, ABD (thumb up and down), ER, and Rows
  - e. Standing Abduction to 90°
  - f. Single arm pulldowns (assist scapular upward rotation)
- 4. RROM
  - a. Serratus anterior punches
  - b. PNF D2 rhythmic stabilization with isometric holds
  - c. Scapular retractions with theratube
- 5. UBE low resistance (week 3-4)
- 6. Theraband IR, ER, Ext, ABD, and Flex (week 3-4 if pain free)

# III. Phase III – Dynamic Strengthening Phase (Week 6 through discharge; can start at week 4 if pain free)

**Goals:** Return to sports-specific skills or light work duties at 6-8 weeks

#### A. Week 4 to 6 (Dynamic Resistive Exercise) should be pain free

- 1. Continue above exercises as needed
- 2. UBE high resistance
- 3. Progress theraband resistance and shoulder angles
- 4. PNF D2 manual resistance, progress to the raband
- 5. Push ups (progress from wall, counter, on knees, regular)
- 6. Bodyblade

# B. Advanced Strengthening (week 6 - 8 if needed)

- 1. Conditioning
- 2. Plyometrics (progress from double arm to single arm)
- 3. Proprioception, Coordination/Timing