

SLAP Protocol

Precautions:

- Sling/Brace: For 4 weeks, worn at all times unless performing HEP or bathing
- Avoid combination of abd/ER for 6 weeks
- Bicep: For 8 weeks, no active forceful or resisted elbow flexion or supination (turning palm up)
- Please refer to physician and prescription as additional procedures may have been performed including anterior or posterior stabilization depending on size of tear

Phase I (1 – 5 days post-op)

- Wound: monitor for signs of infection
- Modalities: prn for pain and inflammation (ice, IFC)
- Sling: Worn at all times
- ROM:
 - Wrist AROM in all planes, resistance allowed
 - Elbow AAROM in all planes with caution - no long lever tension, no resistance
 - C-spine AROM in all planes
 - Scapular AROM can begin immediately
 - No GH PROM

Phase II (5 days – 4 weeks post-op)

- Wound: Monitor site, mobilize scar
- Modalities: prn for pain and inflammation (ice, IFC)
- Sling: Continue sling use with abduction pillow
- ROM:
 - PROM in flexion, scaption, and abduction
 - Until 2 weeks, not past 45 degrees
 - Until 4 weeks, no past 90 degrees
 - Limit ER to less than 25 degrees
 - At 3 weeks, implement pulleys and cane exercises
- Strengthening:
 - Starting at 3 weeks:
 - Isometrics (shoulder) with elbow flexed at 90 degrees with 25-50% effort
 - No bicep resistance
 - Fitness limited to stationary bike, no WB on involved UE

Phase III (4 weeks – 10 weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Monitor site, mobilize scar
- Modalities: prn for pain and inflammation (ice, IFC)
- Sling: DC abduction pillow at 4 weeks post-op, then continue use of sling in public settings until 6 weeks post-op
- ROM:
 - 4-6 weeks:
 - By 6 weeks, achieve full PROM
 - Light mobs grades I – II
 - AAROM in all planes
 - At 4 weeks, begin prone scapular retraction
 - At 5 weeks, begin to progress to AROM, beginning with gravity eliminated and progressing to gravity resisted
 - 6-8 weeks
 - At 6 weeks, begin scapular stabilization
 - At 6 weeks begin gentle elbow flexion AROM, gradually progressing biceps tension
 - AAROM/AROM within pain free arc
 - By 8 weeks, full AROM
 - Grade III and IV mobs, as needed
- Strengthening:
 - 6-8 weeks:
 - Strengthening of the shoulder within pain free AROM
 - Rhythmic stabilization at 0, 45, and 90 degrees, PNF while supine
 - 8-10 weeks
 - At 8 weeks, UBE with resistance
 - At 8 weeks, PNF standing with slow increase in resistance
 - At 8 weeks, initiate light theraband, slow progression of ER
 - At 8-10 weeks initiate RROM of biceps
 - Weight machines start conservatively, shortened range for rowing and pull downs for bicep. Light resistance to bicep curls with gradual progression
 - At 10 weeks, initiate Plyometric 2 handed ball toss

Phase IV (10+ weeks)

- Refer to physician for throwing, overhead sports, or contact sports
- Light sports 3-4 months
- Hard throwing 4-6 months

Adapted From:

- 1) Brotzman SB, Wilk KE. Clinical Orthopedic Rehabilitation Second Edition. Philadelphia: Mosby; 2003.
- 2) Shoulddoc. Shoulder SLAP Repair available at: <http://www.shoulddoc.co.uk/article.asp?article=181§ion=206/> Accessed November 11, 2008.
- 3) Wilk KE, Reinold MM, Andrews, JR. Arthroscopic Debridement of SLAP Lesion (Type I & II) and/or Partial Rotator Cuff Debridement Protocols. Winchester MA: Advanced Continuing Education Institute, 2004