

Ankle Arthroscopic Debridement

Precautions: Patient will be WBAT with crutches

Phase I (1 – 5 days post-op)

- Wound care: Observe for signs of infection and begin scar management techniques when incision is closed. Leave splint on until 1st post-op physician visit (7 – 10 days), unless performing ROM (starting at 5 days)
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC)
- Brace: As directed by physician
- Gait: WBAT
- ROM: None for days 1 - 5

Phase II (5 days – 4 weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Observe for signs of infection and begin scar management techniques when incision is closed
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC)
 - Consider contrast bath if significant edema
- Gait: WBAT
 - By 3 weeks, wean from crutches
- ROM: Begin AROM/PROM
 - Wobble board and BAPS for ROM
 - Hip/knee AROM
- Strengthening:
 - Begin isometrics and progress to active strengthening (i.e. light theraband) as tolerated
 - Initiate closed-chain strengthening

Phase III (4 weeks – 12 weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Continue scar management techniques
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC, contrast bath)
- Gait: FWB
- ROM: Continue ROM at 4 weeks, then progress to more aggressive as tolerated
 - Manual mobilizations prn

- Strengthening:
 - Advance closed-chain strengthening
- Balance/Proprioceptive Activities – initiate at 6 weeks post-op
 - Begin 2-legged balance activities and progress to single leg
 - BAPS
 - Balance board

Phase IV (12+ weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Continue scar management techniques
- Modalities: continue prn
- ROM: continues as in phase III
- Strengthening: continue as in phase III
- Balance/Proprioceptive Activities – progress to single leg, if not already done
 - At 12-14 weeks, Advance to running and agility drill, plyometrics, sport-specific activities, per physician restrictions
- Testing: Less than 25% deficit for non-athletes, less than 20% deficit for athletes

Adapted From:

1. Reider B, Terry MA, Provencher MT. Operative Techniques: Sports Medicine Surgery. 1st ed. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2010.
2. Brozman SB, Wilk KE. Clinical Orthopedic Rehabilitation. 2nd Ed. Philadelphia: Mosby, 2003.
3. Ankle and Foot Arthroscopy Rehabilitation Protocol. Dr. Anand Vora, Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Specialist, 2021.