

Patellar Tendon Debridement Rehab Protocol

(*For Recalcitrant Patellar Tendinopathy)

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

Diagnosis: _____

DOS: _____

Frequency: 1 2 3 4 times/week

Duration: 1 2 3 4 5 6 weeks

Phase 1 (0-6 weeks)

- Goals: Control swelling, restore neuromuscular communication loops, prevent kinesiophobia; gait training
- Modalities: Compressive cyrotherapy, e-stimulation
- Weightbearing: May begin weight bearing with hinged brace locked in extension, using crutches
- Brace:
 - Locked in extension full-time 24 hours per day for initial 48 hours.
 - After 48 hours begin progressive ROM for exercises.
 - Brace locked at all times weight bearing.
- ROM:
 - Initial 0-2 weeks: 0-30°
 - Weeks 2-4 advance to 0-60°
 - Weeks 4-6 advance to 0-90°
- Exercises:
 - 0-2wks: Quad sets, SLR, calf pumps, passive leg hangs to 45deg at home
 - 2-6wks: PROM/AAROM to tolerance, patella and tibiofibular joint mobs, quad, hamstring, and gluteal sets, SLR, side-lying hip and core

Phase 2 (6-8 weeks)

- Weightbearing: Full
- Brace: Begin to wean from brace after 6 weeks. Advocate to continue in uncontrolled settings or adverse weather.
- ROM: Full 0-120°
- Exercises: Advance Phase 1 exercises. Progress weightbearing flexibility, begin toe raises and closed chain quad work. Begin floor-based core and glutes work, balance exercises, hamstring curls and stationary bike.

Phase 3 (6-12wks)

- Weightbearing: Full
- Brace: None
- ROM: Full
- Exercises: Progress closed chain activities. Begin hamstring work, lunges/leg press 0-90deg, proprioception exercises balance/core/hip/glutes. Begin stationary bike when able.

Phase 4 (12-20wks)

- Weightbearing: Full
- Brace: None
- ROM: Full
- Exercises: Progress phase 3 exercises and functional activities: single leg balance, core, glutes, eccentric hamstrings, elliptical and bike. Swimming okay at 12wks. Advance to sport-specific drills and running/jumping after 16wks once cleared by MD.

****Brace settings may vary depending on nature of exact procedure. Please refer to specific PT rx provided.**