

From the office of:

Andrew J Blackman, MD

3000 15th Avenue South

Great Falls, MT 59405

406-454-2171 AJBOrthopedics.com



PHYSICAL THERAPY PROTOCOL PROCEDURE: HIP ARTHROSCOPY FOR FAI/LABRAL TEAR

1. Concepts:

- a. Range of motion and weight bearing restrictions must be adhered to during the initial rehab process.
- b. Ideally, PT meets with patient on a weekly or every other week basis during the initial 8 weeks of the rehab process to assess the patient's status and progress flexibility, strength, proprioception and cardio-vascular fitness as able.
- c. Throughout the rehab process the physical therapist and patient should avoid exercises and activities which create pain in the involved hip.

2. Week 1:

- a. Key concepts:
 - i. The primary focus of this time period is to allow the joint to calm down following the surgical intervention and begin working on the mobility and stability within the hip joint.
 - ii. No internal or external rotation with the hip flexed until the patient is four weeks out from surgery.
 - iii. Strength training is limited by current weight bearing status.
- b. Weight bearing:
 - i. Partial weight bearing while using axillary crutches or walker.
 - ii. Patient should be instructed in heel to flat foot gait pattern.
- c. Mobility training:
 - i. Passive range of motion with help from patient's family member or friend.
 - ii. Flexion is limited to 90 degrees for four weeks.
 - iii. Abduction as tolerated.
 - iv. Comfortable internal/external log rolling while the patient is supine.
- d. Strength training:
 - i. Hip abduction and adduction isometrics.
 - ii. Quadriceps, hamstrings and gluteal activation exercises.
 - iii. Abdominal training.
 - iv. Ankle isometric strengthening.

3. Week 2:

- a. Key concepts:
 - i. Continue to allow the involved hip to calm down.
 - ii. Continue to stress PRICE principles.
 - iii. Standing active hip extension should not exceed 10 degrees.
 - i. Stationary bike may be started. 90 degree flexion of hip is maintained while seated on bike. Patients should NOT utilize a recumbent bike.
- b. Weight bearing:
 - i. Partial weight bearing with appropriate gait aide.
- c. Mobility training:
 - i. Initiate active assistive range of motion to active range of motion of the involved hip as passive range of motion improves in both comfort and degree.
 - ii. Initiate hip extension with performance of prone knee flexion. Avoid any anterior hip pain especially in patients who have undergone hip flexor lengthening.
 - iii. Prone hip internal rotation may be started.
- d. Strength training:
 - i. Progress core and lower extremity training that is appropriate for patient's current range of motion and weight bearing status.
- e. Cardio-vascular training:
 - i. Standard stationary bike. Begin with 5 minutes and progress up to 30 minutes with no tension. Seat adjusted so that hip does not go past 90 degrees.

4. Week 3:

- a. Key concepts:
 - i. The primary focus for this time period is to begin advancing the patient to full weight bearing.
 - ii. Patient continues to improve range of motion and core/lower extremity strength.
- b. Weight bearing:
 - i. Patient begins weight bearing as tolerated with axillary crutches. Advance to one crutch and then no crutches as patient demonstrates normal gait mechanics.
- c. Mobility training:

- i. Hip flexion is no longer limited other than by comfort.
 - ii. Prone hip internal/external rotation as tolerated. Do not cause hip joint pain.
 - iii. Hip extension is still limited to 10 degrees.
- d. Strength training:
 - i. Core exercises are progressed.
 - ii. Lower extremity exercises are progressed.
 - iii. Advance to weight bearing exercises for both as patient achieves normal gait.
- e. Cardio-vascular training:
 - i. Bike. Work towards 30 minutes.
- f. Pool:
 - i. Wounds must be completely healed. No scab.
 - ii. Work on walking in chest deep water.
 - iii. Active range of motion of hip in all planes as tolerated.

5. Week 6:

- a. Key concepts:
 - i. Ideally, patient is ambulating without gait aide by six weeks post-op.
 - ii. General lower extremity stretching is initiated.
- b. Mobility training:
 - i. Classic lower extremity stretches are started.
 - ii. Begin with short hold times and advance to 30 second holds as able.
 - iii. Do not force hip external rotation or extension.
- c. Strength training:
 - i. Advance proprioception training.
 - ii. Continue to work on lower extremity and core strength. Maximize hip strength in all planes of motion.
- d. Cardio-vascular training:
 - i. Once stationary bike times is at 30 minutes duration, advance to elliptical trainer and/or stairMaster when patient is able to bike for 30 minutes.

6. Week 8:

- a. Key concepts:
 - i. Address any gait issues which remain.
- b. Mobility training:
 - i. Address any asymmetry in lower extremity mobility.

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- ii. Daily stretching should be stressed.
- c. Strength training:
 - i. Continue to train the core, hips and lower extremities.
 - 1. All planes of motion.
 - 2. When able, multiple planes of motion within an exercise.
 - ii. Utilize proprioception in weight bearing drills as able.
 - iii. Every other day strength training.
- d. Cardio-vascular training:
 - i. Patient continues to build to 30 minutes during low-impact aerobic conditioning: Stationary bike, elliptical trainer or StairMaster.

7. Week 12:

- a. Mobility training:
 - i. Begin multiple-plane stretching as able.
- b. Strength training:
 - i. Maximize core, hip and lower extremity strength.
 - ii. Incorporate proprioception into exercises as able.
 - iii. Weight-bearing training should be emphasized.
 - iv. Initiate power development in athletes as able.
- c. Agility training for athletes:
 - i. Low level ladder drills.
 - ii. Promote foot quickness and horizontal movement skills over vertical movements.
- d. Cardio-vascular training:
 - i. Athletes should begin anaerobic and aerobic interval training to begin preparing for return to play.
 - ii. Training should continue to be low-impact.

8. Week 24:

- a. Core training:
 - i. Core training in multiple planes when able and sport-specific concerns.
- b. Plyometric training:
 - i. Low level sports specific.
- c. Energy system training:
 - i. Anaerobic intervals with appropriate work to rest ratios.
 - ii. Continue with aerobic intervals.
 - iii. Begin to add in impact loading.

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