

PROTOCOL

POST OPERATIVE ACL RECONSTRUCTION WITH MENISCUS REPAIR

	Approximate Time Frame (Weeks)	Activity	Goals
PHASE I	0-2	WB Status: PWB 25-50%* Brace: locked, 0/0 ROM: 0-90 *see MD orders for exceptions. Manual: patella mobilization, gentle STM to reduce edema, soreness, guarding above/below knee PRN Exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quad sets (w/NMES PRN) • P/AA range of motion exercises, as permitted by post-op restrictions • Multiplane SLR/OKC hip w/knee straight • Calf raises/ankle strengthening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Extension to 0 ◇ SLR no lag ◇ Control inflammation ◇ Minimize DVT risk ◇ Flexion ROM to MD guidelines ◇ Normalize PF mobility
PHASE II	2-6	WB: FWBAT unless otherwise noted* Brace: continue to be locked at 0 for until end of 6 weeks* ROM: 0-90, progressing to full ROM if indicated* Manual: STM/MFR PRN, scar mobilization once healed. Patella mobs 0/30. <i>Aggressive patella/anterior interval mobilization on BTB grafts</i> Exercise progression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip/core strengthening, OKC and CKC hip exercise • Proprioception in brace • LE stretching w/consideration for harvest site and ROM precautions • Hamstring activation/isometrics: <i>avoid loaded knee flexion to protect medial meniscus repair</i> • Progress calf strengthening Cardiovascular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin stationary bike when allowed >90 degrees of flexion • Short, frequent walks in brace • Alter G walking ONLY if using unlocked brace and WB status > 25% <i>with physician clearance . See Alter G guidelines</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Minimize swelling and PF pain ◇ Extension equal to opposite side ◇ Pain-free flexion within guidelines ◇ Progress off of crutches if permitted by MD orders ◇ For FWB, achieve good SL stance ◇ Maximize Muscular endurance as able ◇ Maximize strength around surrounding joints

*See MD's post op orders for exceptions or specifics on WB and ROM restrictions

- Peripheral meniscus repairs will be allowed to progress quicker than bucket handle or complex repairs, and procedures may vary greatly. Confirm restrictions on post-op map.
- Progression is criterion-based and will be slower than timeframes listed if phase goals are not met

	Approximate Time Frame (Weeks)	Activity	Goals
PHASE III	6-16	<p>Manual: PRN to address ROM deficits or pain. Mobilize scars (<i>BTB</i>)</p> <p>Exercise progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent myofascial management (FR, massage stick, ball) ROM/stretching for terminal motion Controlled movement series CKC PRE's, bilateral and unilateral, emphasizing single leg strength. Strength training, utilizing gym equipment. <i>No resisted knee extension</i> Advance core program/accessory hip muscles <p><i>Avoid squats, lunges > 90 degrees</i> <i>no ham curl w/external load x 10-12 weeks for hamstring autograft</i></p> <p>Cardiovascular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alter G walking to normalize gait, progress to running Stationary biking progression, outdoor biking 12-14 weeks Non-impact intervals 12-14 weeks Swimming, shallow pool running 12 weeks Basic linear ladder drills 14-15 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal to no PF pain as strength training advances Full terminal motion Normalize gait Improve cardiovascular fitness with increased duration, intensity of low impact training Proper single leg squat/dip x10 reps before ladders/running
PHASE IVa	4-6 mos	<p>Strengthening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance PRE's of hip, knee, ankle Incorporate power into training, considering individual need <p>Cardiovascular: High intensity low impact cardio to build fitness, lower intensity cardio for recovery and Alter-G for progressive loading. <i>Impact starting 2-3 days/week</i></p> <p>Running Progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic linear and skipping drills, gradually advancing difficulty Walk/jog interval - 14-16 weeks Linear acceleration/deceleration-16-18 weeks Sprinting, cutting, lateral agility 5-6 mos (gradually increase intensity) <p>Jumping: single response progressing to multiple response jumps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double leg, low amplitude jumps starting 14-16 weeks Progressing to single leg hop 16-20 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual therapy only PRN to address terminal motion deficit and/or pain Control inflammation with increasing loads/impact Limb symmetry with all strength exercises Normalize running gait Single leg hop with 30-60 degree bend on landings with good valgus control
PHASE IVb	5-9 mos	<p><i>Focus shifted to impact and sports specific activities</i></p> <p>Strength:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight training volume is maintaining or decreasing, continue to increase resistance as tolerated 2-3x/week Perform strength training after running/agility OR on opposite days <p>Plyometrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress based on sport demands, individual ability <p>RTS progression: (see specific sport protocol for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unidirectional agility drills, progressing to multidirectional Begin position and sport specific skills-drills Non-reactive progressing to reactive drills-coach or PT directed <p><i>Practice/game progression, after passing sports test:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Participation in all practice drills ⇒ Scrimmage participation with no contact ⇒ Scrimmage or game situation with contact, limited playing time ⇒ Return to sport with increasing game minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconditioning for sport demands Correct faulty movement with high level tasks Emphasize both limbs for injury prevention Consideration for meniscus repair with impact depth, training volume RTS test @ 6+ months Return to practice with gradual progression to game play <p>RTS test may be modified per therapist's discretion based on patient demographics and goals</p>

Full return is sport and patient specific and is expected no sooner than 6-9 months