

**ARTHROSCOPIC SLAP TYPE IV REPAIR  
with Biceps Tenodesis  
(SLAP Lesion debridement not repair)**

**Precautions:**

- 1: No isolated biceps brachii contraction for 3 months**
- 2. No heavy lifting overhead for 3 months**
- 3. No carrying heavy objects on surgical side for 3 mos**

**I. Phase I – Immediate Postoperative Phase “Restrictive Motion” (Day 1 to Week 6)**

Goals: Protect the anatomic repair  
Prevent negative effects of immobilization  
Restore dynamic stability  
Diminish pain and inflammation

**Week 0-2:**

- Sling for 3-4 weeks
- Sleep in immobilizer for 4 weeks
- Elbow/hand ROM
- Hand gripping exercises
- Passive and gentle active assistive ROM exercise
  - Flexion to 90 degrees (Week 2: Flexion to 100 degrees)
  - Elevation in scapular plane to 90 degrees (first week)
  - ER/IR with arm in scapular plane at 45 degrees abduction to tolerance
  - ER to tolerance (caution with biceps pain)
  - IR to 45 degrees
- \*\*NO active Flexion
- Submaximal isometrics for shoulder musculature (except shoulder flexion)
- NO isolated Biceps Contractions
- Cryotherapy, modalities as indicated

**Week 3-4:**

- Discontinue use of sling at 3-4 weeks
- Sleep in immobilizer until Week 4
- Continue gentle ROM exercises (PROM and AAROM)
  - Flexion to 145-160 degrees to tolerance
  - Abduction to tolerance
  - ER in scapular plane at 45° abd to tolerance
  - IR in scapular plane at 45° abd to 55-60 degrees
  - At week 3 begin ER/IR at 90° of abduction to tolerance
- \*\*NOTE: Rate of progression based on evaluation of the patient.
- No active elevation
- Initiate rhythmic stabilization drills (ER/IR) at 45 deg abduction
- Initiate proprioception training
- Tubing ER/IR at 0 degrees Abduction
- Continue isometrics
- Initiate scapular strengthening exercises
- Continue use of cryotherapy
- No isolated biceps

**Week 5-6:**

- Gradually improve ROM
  - Flexion – gradually restore full flexion
  - ER at 90 degrees abduction – gradually return to full ROM
  - IR at 90 degrees of abduction – gradually to full ROM
- May initiate light stretching exercises
- Continue tubing ER/IR (arm at side)
- Initiate Active Shoulder Abduction (without resistance)
- Initiate “Full Can” Exercise (Weight of Arm)
- Initiate Prone Rowing, Prone Horizontal Abduction (with elbow bent)
- NO Biceps Strengthening

**II. Phase II – Intermediate Phase: Moderate Protection Phase (Week 7-14)**

Goals: Gradually restore full AROM (week 8-10)  
 Preserve the integrity of the surgical repair  
 Restore muscular strength and balance  
 Gradually return to low level functional activities

**Week 7-9:**

- Gradually progress ROM:
  - Flexion to 180 degrees
  - ER at 90 degrees abduction: 90-95 degrees
  - IR at 90 degrees abduction: 70-75 degrees
- Continue to progress isotonic strengthening program
- Initiate PNF strengthening
- Initiate Throwers Ten Program or Fundamental Shoulder Exercises
- Emphasize posterior cuff strengthening and scapular strengthening
- Progress scapular strengthening program
- Initiate triceps strengthening

**Week 10-12:**

- May initiate slightly more aggressive strengthening
- Progress isotonic strengthening exercises
- Continue all stretching exercises  
 \*\*Progress ROM to functional demands (i.e. overhead athlete) if appropriate
- Continue all strengthening exercises
- Week 12 – Initiate isometric biceps contractions

**III. Phase III – Minimal Protection Phase (Week 13-20)**

Goals: Establish and maintain full ROM  
 Improve muscular strength, power and endurance  
 Gradually initiate functional activities  
 Gradual return to full functional activities

***Criteria to enter Phase III:***

- 1) Full non-painful ROM
- 2) Satisfactory stability
- 3) Muscular strength (good grade or better)
- 4) No pain or tenderness

**Week 14-16:**

- Continue all stretching exercises (capsular stretches)
- Maintain Throwers Motion (Especially ER) if appropriate
- Continue strengthening exercises:
  - Throwers Ten Program or Fundamental Exercises
  - PNF Manual Resistance
  - Endurance training
  - Initiate light plyometric program – week 16
  - Restricted sport activities (light swimming, half golf swings)
  - Initiate isolated elbow isotonic (light then progress slowly to heavier wts)

**Week 17-20:**

- Continue all exercise listed above
- Continue all stretching
- Continue Throwers Ten Program
- Continue Plyometric Program
- Initiate interval sport program (throwing, etc) if appropriate  
\*\*See interval Throwing Program

IV. **Phase IV – Advanced Strengthening Phase (Week 20-26)**

Goals: Enhanced muscular strength, power and endurance  
Progress functional activities  
Maintain shoulder mobility

***Criteria to enter Phase IV:***

- 1) Full non-painful ROM
- 2) Satisfactory static stability
- 3) Muscular strength 75-80% of contralateral side
- 4) No pain or tenderness

**Week 20-26:**

- Continue flexibility exercises
- Continue isotonic strengthening program
- PNF manual resistance patterns
- Plyometric strengthening
- Progress interval sport programs

V. **Phase V – Return to Activity Phase (Month 6 to 9)**

Goals: Gradual return to sport activities  
Maintain strength, mobility and stability

***Criteria to enter Phase V:***

- 1) Full functional ROM
- 2) Muscular performance isokinetic (fulfills criteria)
- 3) Satisfactory shoulder stability
- 4) No pain or tenderness

**Exercises:**

- Gradually progress sport activities to unrestrictive participation
- Continue stretching and strengthening program