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Notes:

**This protocol is designed to serve as a guide for the rehabilitation process.*

It is not intended to supersede clinical judgment and decision making. Progression rough each phase is designed to allow for maximal tissue healing of repaired tissues and is based on scientific evidence and clinical experience

Estimated Return to Sport / Work:

Modalities: Continue PRN
CV Exercise: Biking¹⁷
Swimming (flutter kick)
Walking/Elliptical/Stairmaster^{4,11,15}

Criterion for Progression:

- 1)Able to complete SLR without lag**
- 2)Ambulate on level surfaces without brace and with good quad control**

Phase III – Tissue Remodeling/Hypertrophy Phase (11-16 weeks)

Goals: 1)Full knee AROM
2)Improve eccentric quad control
3)Strength progression
4)Begin light jogging by week 16

ROM: ROM to full
Stretching Quadriceps (end range)

Exercise: Shuttle/Leg Press (0-80 degrees)⁶
Squats (0-80 degrees)⁶
Single limb squats
Step ups/Downs^{4,11,15}

CV Exercise: Initiate jogging progression^{4,11,15}
Lap swim

Criterion for Progression:

- 1)No pain or edema/effusion**
- 2)Full knee ROM**
- 3)20 reps to 60 degrees single leg squat with eccentric control and good lower extremity alignment**
- 4)Quad strength >80% of uninvolved LE (10RM single leg press or isokinetically if available)**

Phase IV – Sport Specific Training (weeks 17-30)

Goals: 1)Begin sport specific drills
2)Normalize neuromuscular control
3)Normalize jumping/landing mechanics if indicated
4)Prepare for return to sport

Exercise: Begin agility progression (week 20)
Begin plyometric progression (week 24)
Progress on running progression/sport-specific training

Criterion for Return to Sport: (Recommend combination testing of strength, agility, and power according to available resources/clinic setting)³

- 1)No pain or swelling**
- 2)Quad strength > 90% of uninvolved (10RM leg press or isokinetic testing)¹²**
- 3)IKDC (MCID 6.3@ 6mo; 16.7 @ 12 mo)^{2,4,5,16}**
- 4)Confidence Question¹⁷**

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Patellar/Quadriceps Tendon Repair (Full Thickness)

Weight Bearing

- NWB x _____ wks
- TDWB x _____ wks
- PWB _____% x _____ wks
- WBAT
- Brace Locked in Ext x _____ wks

Brace

Brace : _____ weeks

With Sleep: _____ weeks

ROM

- Full ROM
- Locked full ext x _____ wks
- Locked at _____° x _____ wks
- ROM limits
- _____° to _____° x _____ wks
- _____° to _____° x _____ wks
- _____° to _____° x _____ wks
- _____° to _____° x _____ wks

CPM

- _____° to _____° x _____ wks
- 30-70° ↑10°/d @ dir
- None

Recommended Clinical Guidelines

WB: TDWB Week 1
WBAT Week 2-6 (brace locked in extension)

ROM: 0-30 x 3 weeks
0-60 x week 3-4
0-90 x week 5-6

Precautions

No active open-chain knee extension x 6 weeks

Phase I – Tissue Protection/Healing Phase (0-6 weeks)

- Goals:**
- 1) Reduce pain
 - 2) Reduce effusion
 - 3) Minimize scar adhesion formation
 - 4) Improve knee ROM
 - 5) Facilitate quadriceps activation

ROM: PROM/AAROM (0-MD prescribed limit)^{4,7,21}

Passive Extension/Heel Prop

Stretching - Gastroc, Hams, TFL/ITB

Exercise: Quad/Hamstring Isometrics^{4,17}
SLR - abd/add/ext (with brace locked in extension)
Standing SLR or AASLR (with brace locked-no lag)^{4,11}
Calf Raises (with brace locked in extension)
Wt Shifting/SL balance (brace locked in ext)
Open Chain Knee flexion/Hamstring Curls^{4,11,18}

Manual: Patella Mobilizations^{1,8}
Scar Mobilizations^{1,8}
Soft Tissue Mobilization Patellar Tendon^{1,8}

Modalities: Functional Electrical Stimulation^{9,16}
Cryotherapy^{2,3,12,14,22}

Criterion for Progression:

- 1) Voluntary quad isometric contraction
- 2) Full patellar mobility
- 3) Minimal to no edema/effusion
- 4) Knee ROM 0-90 degrees

Phase II – Tissue Proliferation Phase/Progression Phase (7-10 weeks)

- Goals:**
- 1) Improve knee AROM towards full
 - 2) Strength progression – develop functional quad control
 - 3) Normalize gait without brace

ROM: PROM/AAROM/AROM progress towards full

Gait Training: Initiate ambulation with brace unlocked

Cone walking

Pre-Gait Training/WB Terminal Knee Ext (30-0)⁵

Exercise: SLR flexion (without lag)^{4,11,15,17}
Partial Wall Sits (progress from 30-60 deg flexion)^{5,11,15}
Open Chain Knee extension (90-30 degrees)⁶
Proprioception Exercises (Bilateral to unilateral)
Short Arc knee extension (30-0)

Manual: Continue PRN