

# Post-Operative Rehabilitation Guidelines for ACL

## Reconstruction - Rehab Protocol

### 0-2 Weeks:

- WBAT, Brace locked at 0 degrees for ambulation and sleeping
- D/C crutches when gait is non-antalgic
- ROM: 0-90° with emphasis on full extension
- Patella mobilization
- SLR supine with brace locked at 0 degrees, Quad Sets
- Ankle Pumps
- Short crank (90mm) ergometry

### 2-6 Weeks:

- Brace: unlocked when quad control is adequate.
- Discontinue between 3 to 4 week if good quad control
- ROM: 0-125 degrees (Maintain full extension)
- Active knee extension from 40 degrees
- Standard (170mm) ergometry (if knee ROM > 115 degrees)
- Leg Press (80-0 degree arc)
- Mini Squats / Weight Shifts
- Proprioception training
- Initiate Step Up program

### 6-14 Weeks:

- Progressive Squat program
- Initiate Step Down program

- Leg Press, Lunges
- Isotonic Knee Extensions (90-40 degrees, closed chain preferred)
- Agility exercises (sport cord)
- Versaclimber/Nordic Track
- Retrograde treadmill ambulation

**14-22 weeks:**

- Begin forward running (treadmill) program when 8" step down satisfactory
- Continue Strengthening & Flexibility program
- Advance Sports-Specific Agility Drills
- Start Plyometric program

**>22 weeks:**

- Advance Plyometric program, Return to Sport (MD Directed)