



MPFL Reconstruction

Post-Operative Rehabilitation Protocol

0-2 weeks

- WBAT
- Brace locked at 0° for ambulation and sleeping
- ROM: 0-30° with emphasis on full extension
- SLR supine with brace locked at 0°
- Quad Sets with brace locked at 0°
- Ankle Pumps

2-4 weeks

- WBAT
- Brace locked at 30° for ambulation and sleeping
- ROM: 0-60° (Maintain full extension)
- Proprioception training
- SLR, quad sets, ankle pumps

4-6 weeks

- WBAT
- Brace locked at 60° for ambulation and sleeping
- ROM: 0-90° (maintain full extension)

6-14 weeks

- Discontinue brace once good quad control
- Progressive Squat program
- Initiate Step-Down program
- Leg Press, Lunges
- Isotonic Knee Extensions (90-40°, closed chain preferred)
- Agility exercises (sport cord)
- Versaclimber/Nordic Track
- Retrograde treadmill ambulation

22 weeks



- Advance plyometric program
- Return to sport (MD directed)
- Lower Body Assessment when initiating return to sport progression. Schedule via QR code email or spc@rushortho.com

Weight Bearing Status

WBAT

Brace Settings

Locked at 0° x 2 weeks then at 30° for another 2 weeks and then 60° at 4 weeks when ambulating or sleeping. Otherwise open brace once good quad control

ROM Restrictions

PROM 0-30° beginning POD 1



Exercise	Week																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Initial Exercises:																	
ROM Goals	0-30°				0-60°			0-90°		Progress to full							
Flexion/extension, heel slides																	
Flexion/extension- seated																	
Patella/Tendon mobilization																	
Quad Series																	
Hamstring Sets																	
Sit and Reach for Hamstrings																	
Ankle Pumps																	
Crutch weaning	WBAT																
Heel prop knee extension stretch																	
SLR (w/ brace until quad control restored)																	
Toe and Heel Raises																	
Balance Series																	
Weight-bearing Strength Exercises:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Double Knee Bends																	
Double Leg Bridges																	
Reverse Lunge, static holds																	
Beginning cord exercises																	
Dead Lift (2 →1 leg)																	
Squat/Leg press (ISO →reps, 2 → 1 leg)																	
Sports Test Exercises																	
Cardiovascular Exercises:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Bike with both legs-no resistance																	
Bike with both legs- resistance																	
Aqua jogging																	
Treadmill-walking 7% incline																	
Swimming with fins-light flutter kick																	
Elliptical Trainer																	
Rowing																	
Stair stepper																	
Agility Exercises:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Running Progression																	
Initial-Single Plane																	
Advance-Multi Directional																	
Functional Sports Test																	
High Level Activities:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Golf Progression																	
Outdoor biking, hiking, running																	
Return to Sport																	



Quad Series:

- Quad sets (5 sec hold) also quick contractions (NMES to supplement)
- Prone quad sets
- SLR with no extension leg
- Progression of Quad Strengthening
 - LAQ in safe range -no added resistance to begin
 - Once weight bearing tandem stance TKE with 5 sec hold
 - Isometric wall sit
 - SLR with resistance
 - Step up progression
 - Squat progression
 - Leg press progression
 - Lunge progression

Hamstring Series:

- Hamstring stretching (supine/prone)
- Hamstring set (heel dig)- contract hamstring with knee flexed pressing heel into the floor (5 sec hold)
- Hamstring curls
- Progress to resisted hamstring curl

Sport Test Exercises:

- Goals: impact training and introduction of directional drills
- Double leg squat jumps
- Box jumps
- Speed skaters
- Double leg jumps for height and distance progress to single leg as tolerated
- Blaze pod change of direction drills

Further Clarifications and Considerations:

- Double Knee Bends: feet shoulder width apart, bend knees to 30°, keeping knees behind the toes.
- Cord exercises (resistance band/cord): resisted double knee bends, resisted hamstring curls
- May begin to implement BFR as early as 1 week into post-op period



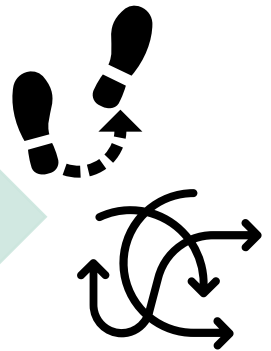
Return to Running Criteria

- Trace effusion, flexion within 5 degrees of contralateral side
- LSI on anterior reach Y balance test $\geq 90\%$
- LSI on quadriceps torque output on isometric measurement $\geq 75\%$
- 12" SL squat tolerance
- Able to walk > 1 mile with no limping or pain
- Able to "hop" with UE assist on operative leg 5 times without pain or compensation
- SL balance with eyes closed 30 seconds without loss of balance



Return to Agility/Change of Direction Criteria

- Return to running criteria listed above met
- No effusion
- Full ROM
- Quad LSI on isokinetic $\geq 85\%$
- Hamstring LSI on isokinetic $\geq 85\%$
- LSI on anterior reach Y-balance $\geq 95\%$
- SL hopping pain-free and effusion free



Return to Sport Criteria

- In order to test must demonstrate full AROM, no pain, no/trace effusion, 5/5 strength, negative lachman and pivot shift, LSI $\geq 95\%$ hamstring curl and leg press
- Quadricep strength $\geq 95\%$ of contralateral side (< 2cm of atrophy)
- Able to perform single leg squat with correct form
- LSI SL hop $\geq 95\%$
- Y-Balance $\geq 95\%$ (mean of 3 trials in anterior, posterolateral, posteromedial/100)
- Vertical jump test, single leg hop distance, and timed single leg hop over 20 -feet $\geq 90\%$ of contralateral side

