



# Bucket Handle Meniscus Repair

## Post-Operative Rehabilitation Protocol

### 0-6 weeks

- NWB for 6 weeks
- Active/Passive ROM: 0-90°
- Patella mobilization
- SLR supine with brace locked at 0°
- Quad Sets with brace locked at 0°
- Heel Slides
- Ankle pumps

### 6-8 weeks

- Transition to WBAT with brace unlocked
- Discontinue crutches when gait is normalized and non-antalgic
- Discontinue brace once good quad control
- Wall sits to 90°

### 8-12 weeks

- WBAT with unloader brace
- Full ROM
- Progress with closed chain exercises
- Lunges from 0-70°
- Leg press 0-70°
- Proprioception exercises
- Begin Stationary Bike

### 12-16 weeks



- Progress Strengthening exercises
- Single leg strengthening
- Begin jogging and progress to running
- Sports specific exercise
- Plyo Prep Screen when initiating running and/or jumping. Schedule via QR code or email [spc@rushortho.com](mailto:spc@rushortho.com)

### Weight Bearing Status

NWB x 6  
weeks

### Brace Settings

Locked  
straight x 6  
weeks when  
ambulating  
or sleeping.  
Otherwise  
open brace  
once good  
quad control

### ROM Restrictions

Full PROM  
beginning  
POD 1



Exercise	Week																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Initial Exercises:																	
ROM Goals	0-90°					0-125°			Progress to full								
Flexion/extension, heel slides																	
Patella/Tendon mobilization																	
Quad Series	0° ISOs, SLR					60° ISO				70-30 arc-resisted			Full arc resisted				
Hamstring series/ strength progression	No isolated, resisted HS								ISOs, hip based				Knee-based resisted arc				
Sit and reach for hamstrings (no hyperextension)																	
Ankle Pumps																	
Crutch weaning	NWB																
Heel prop knee extension stretch																	
SLR (w/ brace until quad control restored)																	
Toe and heel raises																	
Balance series																	
Weight-bearing Strength Exercises:																	
Double knee bends	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Leg Bridges (2 → 1 leg)	NWB																
SLS Balance progressions																	
Squat/Leg press (ISO →reps, 2 → 1 leg) (max 70°)																	
Step-up/Lunge Progressions (Max 70°)																	
Dead Lift (2 →1 leg)																	
Sports Test exercises																	
Cardiovascular Exercises:																	
Bike with both legs-no resistance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Bike with both legs- resistance	NWB																
Aqua jogging																	
Treadmill-walking (no limp)																	
Swimming with fins-light flutter kick																	
Elliptical Trainer																	
Stair stepper																	
*Cardio Exercises	Must tolerate daily walking with no limp & no significant increase in pain/swelling prior to initiating WB cardio (walk, elliptical, stepper)																
Agility Exercises:																	
Running Progression	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Initial-Single Plane	NWB																
Advance-Multi Directional																	
Functional Sports Test																	
High Level Activities:																	
Golf Progression	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	16	20	24			
Outdoor biking, hiking, running	NWB																
Return to Full Sport at 7-9 months post-op																	



## 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 (WB exercises at 6 weeks)
  - 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

- May begin to implement BFR as early as 1 week into post-op period
- Functional Sports Test: Baseline completed at 7 months post-op with subsequent test at 9 months



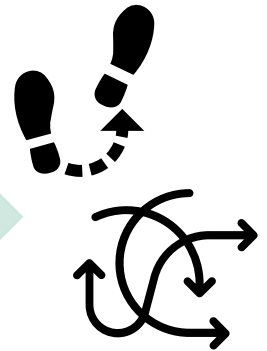
## Return to Running Criteria

- 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

