

REVERSE TOTAL SHOULDER ARTHROPLASTY PROTOCOL

Weeks 1-3

- Allow healing of soft tissue, monitor neurovascular status
- Independent with ADL's with modifications to protect joint replacement.
- Sling is to be worn full time outside of the home and sleeping for 2-3 weeks, PRN in the home (may vary by M.D.)
- Sling to be removed 4 times a day to allow the elbow to fully extend and perform HEP.
- When lying in supine, a small pillow or towel roll should be placed under the elbow to position the shoulder in a more functional neutral position.
- Avoid weight bearing to replaced joint, avoid extension beyond neutral with IR, and avoid excessive ER to protect subscapularis repair.
- Begin gentle PROM:
 - Flexion and Abduction to 90°
 - ER to 30-40° with elbow supported on towel roll for scapular plane(do not force ER to protect subscapularis repair)
 - IR to 50° with elbow supported on towel roll for scapular plane
- Exercises
 - Cervical AROM as needed
 - Pendulums/Codman's exercises
 - Submaximal scapular AROM (elevation and retraction)
 - Submaximal shoulder isometrics if pain free (ER/Flexion/Abduction in neutral)
 - Elbow, wrist, and hand AROM (no weight bearing through involved extremity)
- Ice and modalities as needed for pain and swelling

Weeks 3-6

- Continue with elbow, wrist and hand AROM.
- Continue Pendulums/Codman's
- Continue shoulder isometrics in a pain-free range (avoid IR if painful as well as) and
- Progress AAROM/PROM:
 - Flexion to 120°-130°
 - Abduction to 110°
 - ER to 45-50° with elbow supported on towel roll for scapular plane
 - IR to 60° with elbow supported on towel roll for scapular plane
- May progress to rope and pulley at 3-4 weeks postop once 120° in supine flexion is achieved.
- Progress scapular strengthening as long as there is no increase in pain or symptoms.

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- Monitor swelling, abnormal pain response, and increased night pain and modify accordingly
- Ice and modalities as needed for pain and swelling

Weeks 6-9

- Progress supine passive range of motion
 - Flexion to 145°
 - ER to 60-70° with shoulder abducted 60-90°
 - IR to 65° with shoulder abducted 45-60°
- Progress scapular exercises, Emphasize scapular stabilization, serratus anterior strengthening
- Begin light resistance exercise with theraband for ER, IR, EXT, ADD and Rows (avoid extension beyond neutral)
- Begin active flexion and scaption to 90° if scapular mechanics are good.
- Begin biceps resistance as tolerated (hammer curls vs. supinated curls).
- Watch scapulo-humeral rhythm, emphasize concentric/eccentric phases
- May utilize gentle horizontal adduction stretch with shoulder in 45-80° of flexion to avoid impingement of RC.
- May initiate low level closed chain strengthening below shoulder level (counter shines, ball rolls, etc)
- Ice and modalities as needed for pain.

Weeks 9-12

- Progress strengthening and stretching exercises as tolerated – focus on higher reps and lower resistance with bands/weights.
- Progress range of motion toward normal in all planes, including ER at 90° abduction
- If adequate range is achieved, may begin prone core/scapular stabilization and cuff program. If adequate range is not yet achieved or patient is not comfortable with prone program, initiate with supine Theraband program (start at 90°-100°) and advance as tolerated.
- Multi-angle rhythmic stabilization

Weeks 12-24

- Progress to advanced strengthening program as tolerated
- Begin PNF patterns: limited range → full range, proximal → middle → distal resistance
- Continue CKC on wall → slideboard
- Maximize functional use of UE