



Proximal Hamstring Primary Repair Protocol

Applicability: Physician Practice	Date Effective: 03/2017
Department: Rehabilitation Services	Date Last Reviewed / or Date Last Revision: 1/2021
Supersedes: Proximal Hamstring Primary Repair (Dr. Beattie)	
Administration Approval: Deanna Orfanidis VP, Chief Nursing Officer	

Purpose: Define the protocol to be followed for all patients referred from Northwestern Orthopedics after the above procedure has been performed.

Policy Statement: Treatment will follow the defined protocol below and be carried out by Physical Therapist, Athletic Trainer and/or Physical Therapy Assistants.

Background: N/A

Definitions: N/A

Procedure: Phase 1: (0-6 weeks post-surgery)

Rehab appointments to begin 7-10 days after surgery anticipate 1x/week during phase 1 or as clinically indicated.

Goals:

- Protection of the repaired tendon(s)
- Pain Control
- Edema control
- Gait progression

Precautions:

- Avoid hip flexion coupled with knee extension
- Avoid unsafe surfaces and environments

Brace:

- The use of a brace is determined by the surgery at the time of surgery, which is based on the time of year, timing of surgery and associated injuries, please refer to MD orders.

Week 0-6:

Weight Bearing:

- Use axillary crutches for up to 6 weeks
 - 0-2 weeks post op: Touch down weight bearing
 - 3-4 weeks post op: 15% to 40% weight bearing progression
 - 5-6 weeks post op: Weight bearing as tolerated and wean from crutches

Edema Management:

- Ice/cryocuff

- Elevation
- Tensogrip/kinesiotaping
- ESTIM as indicated

Suggested Therapeutic exercise:

- Quad set
- Ankle pumps
- Passive knee range of motion (ROM) with no hip flexion during knee extension
- Abdominal isometrics
- Scar mobilization
- Post-op weeks 3-4: Begin pool walking (without hip flexion coupled with knee extension), hip abduction, hip extension, and balance exercises.
- Cardiovascular exercises:
 - Upper body circuit training or upper body ergometer (UBE)

Phase 2: (Begin after meeting Phase 1 goals, usually 6 weeks after surgery)

Rehab appointments: once every 1-2 weeks or as clinically indicated

Goals:

- Normalize gait
- Resolve pain and edema
- Good control and no pain with functional movements including step up/down, squat, partial lunge (do not exceed 60° of knee flexion)

Precautions:

- Avoid dynamic stretching
- Avoid loading the hip at deep flexion angles
- No impact or running

Suggested Therapeutic exercise:

- Non-impact balance and proprioceptive drills – begin with double leg and gradually progressing to single leg
- Stationary bike
- Gait training
- Begin hamstring strengthening – start by avoidance of lengthened hamstring position (hip flexion combined with knee extension) by working hip extension and knee flexion movements separately; begin with isometric and concentric strengthening with hamstring sets, heel slides, double leg bridge, standing leg extension, and physioball curls.
- Hip and core strengthening
- Cardiovascular exercises:
 - Upper body circuit training or UBE

Progression Criteria:

- Normal gait on all surfaces
- Ability to carry out functional movements without unloading the affected leg or pain while demonstrating good control

- Single leg balance greater than 15 seconds
- Normal (5/5) hamstring strength in prone with knee in a position of at least 90° knee flexion

Phase 3: (Begin after meeting Phase 2 criteria, usually 3 months after surgery)

Rehab appointments: once every 1-2 weeks or as clinically indicated

Goals:

- Good control and no pain with sport or work specific movements including impact

Precautions:

- No pain during strength training
- Post-activity soreness should resolve within 24 hours

Suggested therapeutic exercise:

- Continue hamstring strengthening – progress towards strengthening in lengthened hamstring positions; begin to incorporate eccentric strengthening with single leg forward leans, single leg bridge lowering, prone foot catches, and assisted Nordic curls.
- Hip and core strengthening
- Impact control exercises beginning 2 feet to 2 feet, progressing from 1 foot to the other then 1 foot to the same foot
- Movement control exercise beginning with low velocity, single plane activities and progressing to higher velocity, multi-plane activities
- Initiate running drills, but no sprinting to Phase 4
- Cardiovascular exercises:
 - Biking
 - Elliptical machine
 - Stairmaster
 - Swimming or deep water running

Progression Criteria:

- Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities at low to medium velocity without pain or swelling

Phase 4: (Begin after meeting Phase 3 criteria, usually 4-5 months after surgery)

Rehab appointments: ideally patient performing exercise program independently in gym setting with follow up rehab appointments for progression as indicated.

Goals:

- Good control and no pain with sport or work specific movements including impact

Precautions:

- No pain during strength training
- Post-activity soreness should resolve within 24 hours

Suggested therapeutic exercise:

- Continue hamstring strengthening – progress towards higher velocity strengthening and reaction in lengthening position, including eccentric strengthening with single leg forward leans with medicine ball, single leg dead lifts with dumbbells, single leg bridge curls on



physioball, resisted running foot catches, and Nordic curls

- Running and sprinting mechanics and drills

Suggested therapeutic exercise:

- Hip and core strengthening
- Impact control exercises beginning 2 feet to 2 feet, progressing from 1 foot to the other and then 1 foot to the same foot.
- Movement control exercise beginning with low velocity, single plane activities and progressing to higher velocity, multi-plane activities
- Sport/work specific balance and proprioceptive drills
- Stretching for patient specific muscle imbalances
- Cardiovascular exercise
 - Replicate sport or work specific energy demands

Return to Sport/Work Criteria:

- Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities at high velocity without pain or swelling

Note Well: Variances will be communicated by the surgeon directly to Rehabilitation Services.

Related Policies: N/A

References: N/A

Reviewers:

A. Key Stakeholders:

- Dr. Andrew Myrtue – Medical Director, Ortho & Rehab
- Karen Staniels – Director, Ortho/Rehab Service Line & Occ Health

B. Committees: N/A

C. Key Process Owner (KPO): Kristy Cushing – Manager, Rehab Services

***Keywords - Not part of policy:* [ADD Key words for policy search if end user didn't know the name]**