

POST OPERATIVE PROTOCOL

Lateral Collateral Ligament (LCL) Reconstruction Post-Op Protocol

Phase I - Maximum protection weeks 0-6

- Brace locked at 0° at all times for six weeks
- Ice and modalities to reduce pain and inflammation
- Use crutches non-weight bearing for 6 weeks.
- Range of Motion
 - Begin aggressive patella mobility
 - ROM 0- 90° out of brace with no varus stress
 - Quadriceps setting, focusing on VMO
 - Multi-plane straight leg raising

Phase II - Progressive stretching & early strengthening weeks 6-16

Weeks 6 to 12

- Continue with modalities to control inflammation
- May begin to progressively increasing weight bearing IN BRACE with set on full ROM (to be worn AT ALL TIMES when weight bearing)
- Range of Motion
 - Full knee extension (no hyperextension)
 - Knee flexion to 120°, progress as tolerated
- Exercises
 - Continue with phase I exercise
 - Bilateral closed kinetic chain squatting
 - Multi-plane open and closed kinetic chain hip strengthening
 - Step-up progression
 - Stationary biking
 - Pool program; focus on ROM
 - Proprioception drills

Weeks 12 to 16

- Range of Motion
 - Full knee flexion and extension
- Exercises
 - Advance strengthening program progressing to unilateral as tolerated
 - Increase intensity of stationary bike program, may add treadmill walking
 - Advance intensity of pool program; focus on strengthening.

Phase III - Advanced strengthening & proprioception phase weeks 16-20

Weeks 16 to 20

- Range of Motion
 - Full knee flexion and extension with terminal stretch
- Exercises
 - Advance cardiovascular program; no running
 - Increase intensity of closed kinetic chain exercises
 - Advance proprioception drills
 - Initiate gym strengthening progressing from bilateral to unilateral as tolerated
 - Leg press, squats, partial lunges, hamstring curls, ab adduction, calf raises
 - Increase intensity of bike and walking program, may add elliptical trainer
- May begin a pool running program

Phase IV - Advance strengthening and plyometric drill phase weeks 20-24

Weeks 20 to 24

- Implement a full gym strengthening program; including leg extensions at 30° - 0°
- Begin straight plane running
- Begin controlled lateral functional cord drills

Phase V - Return to sport & functional drills phase weeks 24-32

Weeks 24 to 28

- Continue with aggressive lower extremity strengthening, cardiovascular training, and flexibility
- Implement multidirectional agility drills
- Begin plyometric drills from bilateral to unilateral as tolerated

Weeks 28 to 32

- Follow-up examination with the physician
- Brace fitting for functional knee brace
- Sports test for return to competition

If you still have questions about your recovery

Please contact Dr Awwad's office prior to your surgical date at: drgeorgeadmin@aos.com.au

Sometimes we may miss a question that is important to you. If so, please feel free to email us your feedback so that we can improve our service to you and future patients – drgeorgeadmin@aos.com.au

Ask Dr Awwad to clarify your restrictions prior to surgery to avoid disappointment.



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