

**Arthroscopic Debridement/ Partial  
Menisectomy Rehabilitation**

**PHASE I: MAXIMUM PROTECTION PHASE (Weeks 1-4)**

**Goals:** Reduce inflammation/effusion  
Allow early healing  
Full passive knee extension  
Gradually increase knee flexion  
Restore quadriceps voluntary activation

Stage 1: Immediate post-surgery days 1 through 10

- Ice, compression, elevation
- Compression wrap dressing
  - Crutches as needed
- ROM (passive 0-90) to tolerance
- Patellar mobilizations
- Stretch hamstrings, calf, hip flexors
- Strengthening exercises (electrical stimulation to quads):
  - Quad sets
  - SLR flexion
  - Hip Abd/Adduction
  - Knee extension 90-40 degrees
- Mini Squats 0-50/60 degrees
- Avoid active resisted knee flexion

Stage 2: Weeks 2 through 4

- Discontinue crutches when able
- Continue use of ice and compression
- Continue compression wrap
- ROM guidelines
  - Gradually increase PROM as tolerated
  - Week 2: 0-125 degrees
  - Week 3: 0-135 degrees
  - Week 4: 0-145 degrees

\*Discontinue crutches when safe and proper gait (usually during week 2)

- Continue PROM exercises and stretching
- Strengthening exercises (see attached sheet Phase I exercises)
  - SLR (all 4 planes)
  - Knee extension 90-0 degrees
  - CKC mini-squats 0-45 degrees
  - CKC wall squats 0-60 degrees

- Initiate CKC exercises
  - Lateral and front step overs
  - Lateral lunges
  - Step downs (lateral)
  - Step downs (front)
- Bicycle
- Pool exercises (once incision is closed)

### **PHASE III: INTERMEDIATE PHASE (Weeks 4-6)**

**Goals:** Full PROM

Minimal to no swelling/inflammation

Restore quadriceps strength

Gradually increase functional activities

- Continue use of ice and compression as needed
  - Continue ROM and stretching to maintain 0-135 degrees
  - Progress strengthening exercises
    - Leg press 70-0 degrees
    - Knee extension 90-40 degrees
    - Hip Abd/Adduction
    - Wall squats 0-70 degrees
    - Vertical squats 0-60 degrees
    - Lateral step-ups
    - Front and lateral lunges
    - Hamstring curls
  - Balance/proprioception training
    - Biodex stability
    - Squats rocker board
    - Cup walking (step overs)
    - Standing on foam single leg
  - Bicycle (if ROM permits)
  - Pool program (may begin running in pool)
  - Elliptical
- \* May be able to begin running if cleared by physician or medical team

### **PHASE III: ADVANCED ACTIVITY PHASE (Weeks 6-8)**

**Goals:** Improve strength and endurance

Maintain full ROM

Gradually increase applied stress

#### Week 6

- Continue all strengthening exercises listed above (Phase II and III activities) see attached sheet
- May initiate stair stepper if appropriate
- Treadmill walk/run program

#### Week 7

- Continue strengthening and stretching program

## **PHASE IV: RETURN TO ACTIVITY PHASE (Week 8 and beyond)**

**Goals:** Improve strength and endurance  
Prepare for unrestricted activities

### Criteria to progress to Phase IV

- Full non-painful ROM
- No pain or tenderness
- Satisfactory clinical exam
- Satisfactory isokinetic test

### Exercises

- Continue and progress all strengthening exercises and stretching drills
- Deep squatting permitted at 4 months
- Initiate straight line running: 4 months
- Initiate pivoting and cutting: 5 months
- Initiate agility training: 5 months
- Gradually return to sports: 6 months

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