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### Small/Partial Rotator Cuff Repair

#### Phase I (1 – 5 days post-op.)

- Edema: Edema control interventions
- Sling: Ultrasling worn continuously except in therapy or during exercise sessions
- ROM
  - Scapular AROM exercises
  - Initiate PROM of shoulder in all planes within tolerable limits
  - Pendulum exercises
  - Table Stretches
  - A/PROM of the elbow, wrist, and digits
- Strengthening
  - Isometric grip strengthening
- Modalities: PRN for pain & inflammation

#### Phase II (5 days – 4 wks post-op.)

- Wound: Monitor site / scar management techniques
- Edema: Edema control interventions
- Sling: Ultrasling worn continuously, except in therapy or during exercise sessions, until 4 weeks post op. Sling must continue to be worn outdoors or in public settings for an additional 2 weeks.
- ROM
  - Passive shoulder flexion to 140 degrees and all other planes to within tolerable limits (progress IR slowly).
  - Initiate joint mobilizations to glenohumeral, acromioclavicular, and scapulothoracic joints.
- Strengthening
  - Wrist/Forearm isometric and progressive resistive exercises
- Modalities: PRN for pain & inflammation

#### Phase III (4 wks – 10 wks post-op.)

- Sling: D/C sling at 6 weeks post-op
- ROM
  - Initiate pulleys at 4 weeks.
  - Begin AAROM of shoulder in all planes at 4.5 wks
  - Begin AROM of shoulder. in all planes at 5.5 wks
  - Contact Physician if PROM < 140 degrees of shoulder flexion at 6 weeks post-op.

- Strengthening
  - Begin isometric strengthening of shoulder with elbow at 90 degrees in all planes.
  - Begin light resistance strengthening at 8 weeks (i.e. Theraband)
  - Resisted scapulothoracic and scapular stabilization strengthening
- Modalities: PRN for pain and inflammation.

**Phase IV (10 wks + post-op.)**

- ROM: Full AROM achieved in all shoulder planes
- Strengthening:
  - Progressive resistive exercises in all shoulder planes
  - Begin return to work training or sport specific training
  - Consider referral to Work Hardening Program following D/C from Therapy

*Adapted from:*

1. *Brozman SB, Wilk KE. Clinical Orthopedic Rehabilitation Second Edition. Philadelphia: Mosby; 2003*
2. *Wilk KE, Reinold MM, Andrews, JR. Type One Rotator Cuff Repair Arthroscopic Assisted-Mini-Open Repair Small to Medium Tears (1 cm or less). Winchester MA: Advanced Continuing Education Institute, 2004.*