



HIP ARTHROSCOPY – HIP ABDUCTOR REPAIR, LABRAL REPAIR  
Post-Operative Protocol

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**Phase I – Maximum Protection**

**Weeks 0 to 4-6:**

- **Weight Bearing**
  - Full thickness abductor tendon repair: 25% WB x 6 weeks
  - Partial thickness abductor tendon repair: 25% WB x 4 weeks
- **No active hip abduction**
  - Full thickness abductor tendon repair x 6 weeks
  - Partial thickness abductor tendon repair x 4 weeks
- Lie on stomach 2 or more hours per day
- Brace x 6 weeks

**Manual therapy**

- Scar mobilization once incisions are closed
- STM to surrounding muscles

**Exercise progression (POD 1 to 7)**

- Stationary bike with no resistance: immediately as tolerated
- Isometrics: Quadriceps, hamstring isometrics, hip extension, adduction (2x per day): immediately as tolerated

**Exercise progression (POD 8 to 21)**

- Hip isometrics IR/ER (2x/day)
- Initiate basic core: pelvic tilting, TVA and breathing re-education

**Exercise progression (POD 21 to Week 6)**

- Non-weightbearing strength during this phase
- Standing adduction/extension/flexion - full weightbearing on uninvolved side only
- Supine dead bug series
- Introduce basic core program

**Criteria for progression to Phase 2:**

- Mobility within limitations
- Early restoration of neuromuscular control and non-weight bearing strengthening
- Normal patellar mobility

**Phase II – Progressive Stretching and Early Strengthening**

**Weeks 4-6 to 9:**

**Goals**

- Wean off crutches (over 7 to 10 days)
  - Start at 6 weeks – Full thickness abductor tendon repair
  - Start at 4 weeks – Partial thickness abductor tendon repair
- Normal gait
- Normal single limb stance
- Full range of motion

- Improve lower extremity muscle activation, strength and endurance

#### Manual therapy

- Scar mobilization
- STM to quad, ITB, hip flexors, glutes, hip adductors/abductors/rotators
- Continue work on range of motion (FABER, flexion, abduction, IR, ER)
- Dry needling – please wait until 8 weeks for iliopsoas, glutes

#### Exercise progression (as tolerated)

- Bridging double and single
- Supine dead bug series
- Sidelying hip abduction
- Quadruped hip extension series
- Standing open and closed chain multi-plane hip
- Standing internal/external rotation strengthening (use stool)
- Step-up progression
- Squat progression
- Heel raises
- Stationary biking
- Deep water pool program when incisions are completely healed
- Stretching: quadriceps, piriformis and hamstrings

#### **Criteria for Progression to Phase 3:**

- Hip abduction strength 4/5
- Flexion, ER and IR range of motion within normal limits
- 50% FABER range of motion compared to uninvolved side
- Normal gait
- No Trendelenberg with single leg stance/descending stairs
- Normal bilateral squat

#### **Phase III – Advanced Strengthening and Endurance Training**

##### **Weeks 9 to 16:**

**Please do not discharge patient prior to 3 months without approval from Dr. Mullen/Schroepfel**

#### Manual therapy

- STM as needed - particularly glutes, adductors, hip flexors, abductors
- Gentle joint mobilizations as needed for patients lacking ER or FABER range of motion
- May begin trigger point dry needling for glutes, quads, adductors
- Assess FMA and begin to address movement dysfunctions

#### Exercise progression

- Continue with muscle activation series (quadruped or straight leg series)
- Introduce movement series to increase proprioception, balance, and functional flexibility
- Progress core program as appropriate
- Glute and posterior chain strengthening
- Leg press and leg curl
- Squat progression (double to single leg - add load as tolerated)
- Lunge progression
- Step-up progression
- Walking program

- Week 10-12
  - Outdoor biking
  - Swimming: breast stroke kick
  - Shallow water pool running program - 75% unloaded

**Criteria for progression to Phase 4:**

- Hip abduction and extension strength 5/5
- Single leg squat symmetrical with uninvolved side
- Full range of motion
- No impingement with range of motion

**Phase IV – Return to Sport Program**

**Weeks 16 to 24:**

- May begin elliptical and stair climber at 16 weeks
- May begin return to run program if phase 4 criteria are met

**Exercise progression**

- Maintain muscle activation series, trunk, hip and lower extremity strength and flexibility program
- Introduce and progress plyometric program
- Begin ladder drills and multidirectional movement
- Begin interval running program
- Field/court sports specific drills in controlled environment
- Pass sports test
- Non-contact drills and scrimmaging – must have passed sports test - refer to specific return to sport program
- Return to full activity – per physician and therapist