



Upper Extremity Division  
Christopher Klifto, MD

# Shoulder Instability

## Anterior Instability Repair

### General Instructions

- Therapy is to begin 2 weeks after the surgery.
- The patient should work with their therapist 1-3X per week until released by the surgeon.
- Do not add or skip any part of this program. If you have concerns please contact my office.
- Goals: The 2 main goals of this physical therapy program are to:
- Have full active and passive range of motion by 3 months after surgery
- Return to sport by 18-24 weeks after surgery

### Sling Wear

- Patients must wear their sling **at all times** for the first 6 weeks after surgery, this does include while they are sleeping. Patients may only remove the sling to perform therapy exercises and for showering.

### Ice

- The use of ice or ice machine is encouraged to help control pain and inflammation after surgery.

### Questions/Concerns:

- Therapists – if you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly or my office. Email is best for non-urgent issues: [christopher.klifto@duke.edu](mailto:christopher.klifto@duke.edu)

### Protocol

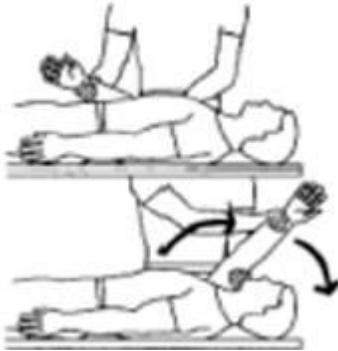
All time points are based on time since surgery:

## 0-2 Weeks

- Wrist and Elbow ROM Only

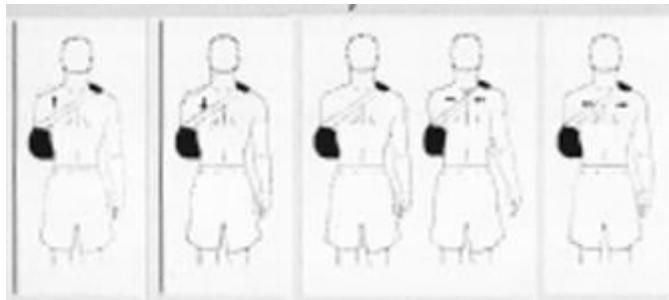
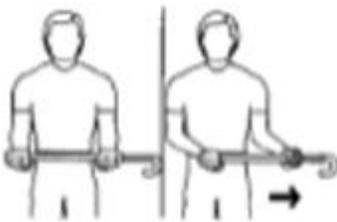
## 2 Weeks

- Passive/active assist forward elevation (FE) to 90 degrees
- Passive/active assist external rotation (ER) to neutral with arm at the side
- Gentle Isometrics (no ER/IR)



## 4 Weeks

- Passive/active assist forward elevation (FE) to 120 degrees
- Passive/active assist external rotation (ER) to 20 degrees with arm at the side
- Passive/active assist Abduction to 90 degrees
- Scapula protraction/retraction (with arm in sling until 6 weeks post-op)
- No combined Abduction and ER!



## 6 Weeks

- May discontinue sling usage, unless in crowd, or on slippery surfaces
- Unlimited passive/active assist in FE
- May begin active motion in all planes
- Posterior glides OK (no anterior)
- Resisted isometrics (no IR)

### **8 Weeks**

- Continue to progress with active motion
- May slowly progress to resisted exercise with therabands



### **12 Weeks**

- May begin sport specific exercises



### **18-24 Weeks**

- Return to play with approval of surgeon