



# Brian Waterman, MD

SPORTS MEDICINE & ORTHOPEDICS

## ROTATOR CUFF REPAIR PROTOCOL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Surgery \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: 1 2 3 4 times/week

Duration: 1 2 3 4 5 6 Weeks

### Weeks 0-1:

- Patient to do Home Exercises (pendulums, elbow ROM, wrist ROM, grip strengthening)
- Patient to remain in sling for 6 weeks

### Weeks 1-6:

- True PROM only! The rotator cuff tendon needs to heal back into the bone
- ROM goals: 140° FF/40° ER at side; ABD max 60-80° without rotation
- No resisted motions of shoulder until 12 weeks post-op
- Grip strengthening
- No canes/pulleys until 6 weeks post-op, because these are active-assist exercises
- Heat before PT, ice after PT

### Weeks 6-12:

- Begin AAROM - AROM as tolerated
- Goals: Same as above, but can increase as tolerated
- Light passive stretching at end ranges
- Begin scapular exercises, PRE's for large muscle groups (pees, lats, etc.)
- At 8 weeks, can begin strengthening/resisted motions
- Isometrics with arm at side beginning at 8 weeks

### Months 3-12:

- Advance to full ROM as tolerated with passive stretching at end ranges
- Advance strengthening as tolerated: isometrics - bands - light weights (1-5 lbs.); 8-12 reps/2-3 sets per rotator cuff, deltoid, and scapular stabilizers
- Only do strengthening 3x/week to avoid rotator cuff tendonitis
- Begin eccentrically resisted motions, plyometrics ( ex. Weighted ball toss), proprioception ( es. body blade)
- Begin sports related rehab at 4 ½ months, including advanced conditioning
- Return to throwing at 6 months
- Throw from pitcher's mound at 9 months
- Collision sports at 9 months

MMI is usually at 12 months post-op

### Comments:

\_\_\_ Functional Capacity Evaluation \_\_\_ Work Hardening/Work Conditioning \_\_\_ Teach HEP



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**Modalities:**

- Electric Stimulation
- Ultrasound
- Iontophoresis
- Phonophoresis
- TENS
- Heat before/after
- Ice before/after
- Trigger points massage
- Therapist's discretion
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_