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**ANTERIOR AND POSTERIOR CAPSULAR SHIFT REHABILITATION PROTOCOL  
(Slow Rehabilitation program for congenitally lax patients)**

Precautions:

- Slower progression in restoring ROM
- Emphasis on Neuromuscular control, scapular position, increase resting muscular tone
- Control arm position/motion while sleeping
- No excessive motion, especially IR, horizontal abduction or adduction
- No pushing motions, push-ups for 8-10 weeks

**I. Phase I - Protection Phase (Week 0-8)**

Goals: Allow healing of sutured capsule  
Begin early protected and restricted range of motion  
Retard muscular atrophy and enhance dynamic stability  
Decrease pain/inflammation

Brace: Patient placed in ultrasling brace in neutral rotation for 4-6 weeks (physician will make determination)

**A. Week 0-2**

Precautions:

1. Sleep in brace for 4 weeks
2. No overhead activities for 6-8 weeks
3. Compliance to rehab program is critical.

Exercises:

Wrist, hand, gripping  
Elbow flex/extension and pronation/supination  
Pendulum exercises (non-weighted)  
Isometrics  
- Flexors, Extensors, ER, IR, ABD  
- Rhythmic stabilization drills ER/IR (neutral rotation at 20 degrees abduction)  
- Proprioception drills  
Range of Motion:  
- PROM only  
- ER/IR at 20 degrees Abduction

- ER to 10-15 degrees
- IR to 10-15 degrees
- Elevation to 45 degrees maximum

**B. Week 3-4**

Goals: Control ROM  
 Enhance Neuromuscular control  
 Decrease pain/inflammation

1. Initiate Range of Motion Exercises  
 L-Bar active assisted exercises, gentle PROM exercises  
 IR/ER at 30 degrees scapular plane to 10-15 degrees.
  - ER to 15-20 degrees
  - IR to 15-20 degrees
 Shoulder flexion to 60 degrees week 3-4.  
 Rope & Pulley Flexion to 60-70 degrees.
2. Strengthening exercises
  - isometrics
  - rhythmic stabilization exercises
  - proprioception drills
  - scapular strengthening exercises manual drills (seated)
  - initiate core stabilization (pelvic tilts, supine, etc.)
3. Conditioning program for:
  - trunk
  - lower extremities
  - cardiovascular
4. Decrease pain/inflammation:
  - ice, modalities

**C. Week 5-6**

1. Continue all exercises listed above
2. Range of Motion Exercises  
 L-Bar Active Assisted Exercises  
 Gradually and slowly increase ROM  
  
 \*Base rate of ROM progress on amount of motion and end feel
  - ER at 40 degrees abduction scapular plane to 40 degrees at week 5
  - IR at 40 degrees abd scapular plan to 45 degrees
  - Flexion to 90-100 degrees week 5-6
3. Strengthening exercises
  - initiate tubing IR/ER with arm at side (limited ROM)
  - rhythmic stabilization drills
  - emphasize rotator cuff strengthening
  - active full can to 70 degrees
  - prone rowing at 0 and 45 degrees

- initiate hand on wall rhythmic stabilization

**D. Week 7-8**

1. Control all exercises listed above
2. Progress ROM gradually
3. Range of Motion
  - ER/IR @ 45 degrees abduction
  - ER to 45 degrees
  - IR to 45 degrees
  - Abduction and flexion to 120-125 degrees

**II. Phase II - Intermediate Phase (Week 8-14)**

Goals: Progress to 70-80% of full ROM at week 10-12  
Increase strength  
Improve neuromuscular control

**A. Week 8-10**

1. Range of Motion Exercise
  - L-Bar active assisted exercises at 75 degrees ABD
  - Flexion to 145-150 degrees
  - ER at 75 degrees Abd to 60 degrees
  - IR at 75 degrees Abd to 55 degrees
  - \*Goal: to obtain 70% (at week 10) of full ROM and allow time and patient to

gain

the rest

2. Strengthening Exercises
  - Initiate isotonic dumbbell program
    - sidelying ER
    - sidelying IR
    - shoulder Abduction to 90 degrees
    - supraspinatus (full can)
    - latissimus dorsi prone rowing
    - rhomboids horz. Abd (bent elbow)
    - biceps curls
    - triceps curls
    - plank stabilization position
  - Continue tubing at 0 degrees for ER/IR
  - Continue stabilization exercises for the glenohumeral joint
  - Scapular strengthening and neuromuscular exercises
  - Continue axial loading exercises
3. Initiate Neuromuscular Control Exercises for Scapulothoracic Joint

**B. Week 11-14**

1. Continue all exercises listed above, emphasis neuromuscular control drills, PNF stabilization drills, and scapular strengthening.
  2. Progress ROM to:
    - ER at 90 degrees ABD: to 75-80 degrees (maximum)\*\*
    - IR at 90 degrees ABD: to 45-55 degrees (maximum)\*\*
- \*\* ONLY if advised by physician
- Flexion to 165 - 170 degrees.

### **III. Phase III - Dynamic Strengthening Phase (Week 14-22)**

\*\*Aggressive strengthening or stretching program based on type of patient.  
(Therapist and/or physician will determine.)

#### **A. Week 14-17**

Goals: Improve strength/power/endurance  
Improve neuromuscular control  
Prepare athletic patient for gradual return to sports

#### **\*\* Criteria to Enter Phase III:**

1. Full non-painful ROM  
\*\* Patient must fulfill this criteria before progressing to this phase.
2. No pain or tenderness
3. Strength 70% or better compared to contralateral side

#### **Exercises:**

- Fundamental shoulder exercises  
\*\*Emphasis: Neuromuscular control drills, rotator cuff strengthening, scapular strengthening.
  - Continue tubing exercises for IR/ER at 0 degrees ABD (arm at side)
  - Continue isotonic:
    - for rhomboids and lower trapezius
    - for latissimus dorsi
    - for biceps
    - bilateral plank rhythmic stabilization
    - hand on wall rhythmic stabilization
  - Continue dumbbell exercises for supraspinatus and deltoid
  - Continue serratus anterior strengthening exercises push-ups floor
- Continue closed kinetic chain drills  
Continue trunk/LE strengthening exercises  
Continue neuromuscular exercises and proprioception drills

#### **B. Week 18-22**

- Continue all exercises above
- Emphasis on gradual return to restricted recreational activities (no overhead sports)

### **IV. Phase IV - Return to Activity (Week 22-30)**

Goals: Progressively increase activities to prepare patient for full functional return

#### **Criteria to Progress to Phase IV:**

1. Full ROM
2. No pain or tenderness
3. Muscle strength test that fulfills criteria
4. Satisfactory clinical exam

#### **Exercise:**

- Continue strengthening exercises

- Fundamental shoulder strengthening exercises
- Core stabilization drills
- Endurance training