

🗖 Frisbie Memorial Hospital 🗖 Marsh Brook Rehabilitation Service 🗖 Wentworth Douglass Hospital 🗖 Durham: Rehab and Sports Therapy Center

VMO Advancement Or Medial Patellofemoral Ligament Reconstruction

Weeks One And Two Weeks Two To Four	
Initial Evaluation	Evaluate
Extension Range of motion	Range of Motion
➢ Swelling	Ability to contract quad/vmo
Ability to contract quad/vmo	 Signs of infection or DVT
Patella mobility	Patella mobility
➢ Gait (WBAT in locked brace)	
Inspect for infection/signs of DVT	
Assess RTW and sport expectations	
Patient Education	Patient Education
Support Physician prescribed meds	Progress to FWB in knee brace locked in 0 degrees
Ensure compliance w/ pre-op HEP	Progress flexion ROM to 90 degrees as tolerated
Reinforce use of brace and assistive device	Reinforce precautions (WB continues in extension
 Restate surgical precautions (flexion 0-30, 	only, caution with uneven surfaces)
WBAT in locked brace only)	 Consider core stability based exercises as appropriate
Discuss frequency and duration of treatment (2-	
3x/wk is expected for the first 8 weeks, followed	
by intermittent appointments over another 6-8	
weeks)	
Therapeutic Exercise	Therapeutic Exercise
➢ Review and update pre-op HEP (heel slides 0-30,	Continue quad sets and SLR activity
ankle pumps, quad sets, multi plane leg raises in	Multi-angle, sub-maximal isometrics (if pain free)
brace)	AROM to 90 degrees
	Weight shifting, heel raises in brace
	HS and gastroc stretching
Manual Techniques	Manual Techniques
No patella mobilization	No patella mobilization
PROM into extension	PROM to assist in achieving full extension and 90
Incision mobilization when appropriate	degrees of flexion
Modalities	Modalities
NMES/Interferential/biofeedback an	Modalities may be used as needed
➢ Ice	
Goals	Goals
➢ Gain full knee extension	Maintain full knee extension
Control pain	Restore voluntary quad contraction
Minimize swelling	> 0-90 degrees ROM
 Restore voluntary quad contraction 	
 Independence with post-op precautions 	



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Weeks Four To Eight	Weeks Eight To Twelve
Evaluate	Evaluate
 Gait Quad Contraction ROM Balance 	 Patella Mobility/crepitus ROM Gait HEP compliance
Patient Education	Patient Education
 Progressively open brace staying 10 degrees less than available ROM, may D/C brace at 6 weeks if good quad contraction and normal gait May need single axillary crutch to normalize gait 	 Wean from brace No running or jumping is to be performed prior to strength testing and only with physician approval
Therapeutic Exercise	Therapeutic Exercise
 May complete open chain isotonic exercise and multi-angle isometrics (hamstring curls and heel raises) Gentle closed chain exercises for quad contraction and proprioception 0-30 degrees at 4 weeks Initiate stationary bike as tolerated at 6 weeks Initiate Single leg stance 	 Advance closed chain exercises for quad contraction beyond 30 degrees as tolerated Bilateral dynamic balance activity Single leg dynamic balance activity on a stable surface Initiate squatting, lunging, and step-up progressions as tolerated through this timeframe
Manual Techniques	Manual Techniques
 Gentle patella mobilizations as needed at 6 weeks PROM may be performed beyond 90 degrees 	Any as indicated
Modalities	Modalities
Any as Indicated	Any as Indicated
Goals	Goals
 Normal gait on all surfaces without brace Single leg stance with eyes closed for at least 10 seconds 0-120 degrees ROM 	 Full ROM No pain with ADL's Quad strength at least 4+/5



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Weeks Twelve To Sixteen	Weeks Sixteen To Discharge
Evaluate	Evaluate
 Any excessive joint laxity HEP compliance Patella mobility / crepitus Balance / single leg stance 	 > Isokinetic Strength testing per physician request at 16 weeks > Address any deficits that may limit return to work or sport goals
Therapeutic Exercise	Therapeutic Exercise
 Progress balance activity to single leg dynamic activity and unstable surfaces at 14 weeks May begin CFA at 12 weeks (with physician approval) May initiate cardiovascular activity (walking, swimming, and elliptical) at 12 weeks with a physician approval 	 Sports specific exercises Encourage participation in the CFA Complete agility and running activity with good test results and physician approval at 16 weeks
Goals	Goals
 5-/5 strength with manual testing by week twelve Good stability across tibiofemoral joint May complete exercise independently with intermittent follow up appointments when above criteria is met (Typically 10 to 12 weeks) 	 Strength of quadriceps and hamstrings no less than 85% per isokinetic test at 12 weeks Discharge with full return to work or sport activity