



***POSTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT (PCL) RECONSTRUCTION
POSTOPERATIVE PROTOCOL***

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Day 0-7 (PT 1x/wk):

- Brace locked in full extension at all times (sleeping, etc.)
- WBAT with crutches with brace locked in full extension
- Begin quad sets, SLRs, hip Ab/Adduction, ankle pumps

Weeks 1-4 (PT 1x/wk):

- WBAT with crutches with brace locked in full extension while ambulating
- Pillow behind proximal tibia at rest to prevent posterior tibial sag
- Supine PROM (0-60 degrees) in brace by Physical Therapist – maintain anterior force on proximal tibia to prevent posterior tibial sag
- Hamstring/calf stretching, standing hip extension exercises
- Calf press with theraband progressing to bilateral standing calf raises with full knee extension, progress to single leg calf raise

Weeks 5-8 (PT 2-3x/wk):

- WBAT with brace 0-90 then unlocked as tolerated – d/c brace at 6-8 weeks post-op
- D/c crutches/brace when no quad lag with SLR, gait pattern normalized
- Wall slides 0-45 degrees – begin isometric then progress to active against body weight
- Standing hip extension/flexion/abduction/adduction with resistance (resistance must be proximal to knee)

Weeks 9-12 (PT 2-3x/wk):

- Stationary bike with seat higher than normal to minimization of hamstring activity
- Stairmaster
- Closed chain terminal knee extension initially with theraband then progress to weights
- Balance/proprioception – single leg stance exercises
- Leg press 0-90 degrees

Months 3-6 (PT 2x/month):

- Advance closed chain exercise program
- Treadmill walking to job progression
- Progress proprioception and balance activities

Months 6+:

- Begin sports specific exercises with gradual return to sporting activities
- Maintain strength, endurance, and flexibility

If you have any questions, contact our clinic.