# TOTAL SHOULDER REPLACEMENT and REVERSE TOTAL SHOULDER REHAB GUIDELINES

PAUL B. McLendon, MD



Riverside Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

**INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATIONS:** please check op report for information regarding procedure and sling usage; if combined with rotator cuff repair, adhere to RCR protocol

## PHASE 1: protective healing (2-6 weeks)

# Post-op PT eval at 2 weeks:

- Remove post-op bandages!, assess incision and surgical site and place new dressing/bandage at end of session if needed
- Take off sling and assess PROM per protocol parameters
- Teach and review importance of sling usage, need to avoid active ROM, no pushing through operate UE, activities to avoid, use of ice

# **PRECAUTIONS:**

- Total Shoulder position of dislocation is shoulder abduction combined with external rotation! Avoid combined motion for up to 12 weeks post-op!
- Reverse Total Shoulder position of dislocation is shoulder ext with IR and adduction (tucking in shirt, wiping, etc)! Avoid for up to 12 weeks post op!
- AVOID IR stretch with strap for reverse total shoulders!

## Sling Use

• Use constantly for first 6 WEEKS, only remove for showers/hygiene and pendulums/PT exercises

#### Goals at 6 weeks:

• Control inflammation and pain—cryocuff 3-4 times a day

#### **SUGGESTED THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES:**

- Pendulum exercises
- Painless PROM in all planes- forward flexion to 120\* and external rotation to 20\*
- No active ROM
- Elbow and wrist AROM exercises
- UT stretching, levator scap stretching, cervical retractions
- Scap retractions, shoulder shrug AROM

# PHASE 2: Restore ROM (6-12 weeks)

Criteria: Pain-free PROM forward flexion to 120\*, ER to 20\*

#### Sling Use

Discharge sling by 6 weeks

#### Goals:

- Full, pain-less PROM, progress AAROM and then AROM for total shoulders
- Functional, pain-free PROM, progress to AAROM and then AROM for reverse total shoulders

#### SUGGESTED THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES:

- PROM in all directions
- AAROM may begin
  - o AAROM supine with dowel: flexion, abd, ER (do not force ER)
    - Perform ER in 0\* abd to maintain precautions for total shoulders
    - Avoid extension for reverse total shoulders
  - o Table slides and progress to wall slides
- Progress to AROM once AAROM adequate (do not force ER)
  - AROM in all planes (avoid ER in abduction to maintain precautions of totals and avoid ext with add/IR for reverse total shoulders)
  - o Flex, abd, ER, IR in supine and standing
  - o s/I ER and s/I abd
  - o Prone ITY, row
  - o Ball on wall (non-weighted ball)
- Begin submax, isometric RC strengthening
  - o Start supine into PT hand and then progress to standing presses into wall
  - PT applied rhythmic stabilization with arm at side (0\* flexion and elbow bent to 90\*), progress to
     90\* flexion of shoulder, elbow straight
- STM as indicated for pain-control avoid scar massage
- Elbow and wrist AROM exercises
- UT stretching, levator stretching, cervical retractions
- Scap retractions, shoulder shrug AROM

# PHASE 3: Strengthening (12 weeks+)

#### Criteria:

- WNL PROM and AROM, pain-free for total shoulders
- WFL PROM and AROM, pain-free for reverse total shoulders

#### Goals:

Shoulder and UE strengthening

#### **SUGGESTED THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES:**

• Continue with AROM, Sub-max isometric strengthening

- AROM in all planes
  - o Flex, abd, ER, IR in supine and standing
  - o s/I ER and abd
  - o Prone ITY, row
- **Light** strengthening- begin with light resistance first and gradually progress to dumbbells (<5 lbs) in all planes—initiate once pt is able to elevate arm in scap plane without hiking
  - o s/I ER and abd
  - o Prone ITY, row
  - o Supine SA punch, horizontal abd, B ER, D2 diagonal
  - o Wall walks, wall clocks
  - Weighted ball on wall
- Continue to progress strengthening- correct UT compensation and shoulder/scap hiking
  - Standing ITY
  - o IR and ER with tubing (elbow at side with towel roll under arm)
  - o Body blade
  - o Progress weight machine (row, lat pull down, OH press, ect)