

## Ankle Arthroscopy Rehabilitation Protocol

This protocol is based on goal-oriented progression. Each patient is different and should be treated according to their tolerance in therapy. Please feel free to call with any questions. Therapy begins at about 10-14 days post procedure. Weight bearing may be limited if cartilage repair techniques were used to treat OCD of the talus for 6 weeks.

- Phase I:** Goals: Decrease pain  
Decrease edema and inflammation  
Increase painfree range of motion and simulate collagen alignment  
Prevent kinesthetic shut down  
Patient education

**Plan:**

Modalities as needed: ice; electrical stimulation; phonophoresis; iontophoresis/  
electrical stimulation

ROM: stretching, self-assisted stretches, joint mobilization/ PROM, AROM in  
dorsiflexion and plantar flexion only

Strengthening: isometrics, T-Band, manual resistive exercises

Initiate balance and proprioceptive exercise in non-weight bearing positions:  
-sitting BAPS drills in dorsiflexion and plantar flexion only

Aquatic therapy if needed to meet above goals

- Phase II**  
Goals:  
Increase to full range of motion and diminish swelling  
Increase strength to good-normal  
Normalize gait and progress to weight bearing exercise  
Improve kinesthetic and neuromuscular control

Plan:

Modalities PRN

Stretching in weight bearing and non-weight bearing positions

Strengthening: advance with phase I: calf strengthening with weight and in  
weight bearing positions. BAPS sitting and standing, progressive trampoline  
(weight shifting and balance activities), initiate hip and knee strengthening

Proprioceptive exercise

Stationary bicycle, advance to EFX, treadmill

- Phase III**

Goals:

Increase strength

Increase proprioception

Increase endurance

Plan:

Advance strengthening in closed chain (leg press, calf raises)  
Continue to advance proprioception  
Incline treadmill Stairmaster

**Phase IV**

Goals:

Return to sport

Plan:

Continue to advance strengthening: progressing weights

Begin plyometric drills

Advance proprioception: trampoline drills, jumping

Agility drills: side stepping, backpedaling, circle running, figure eight sports cord

Stairmaster, treadmill, walk/run, interval training

Sport specific activities; i.e .. soccer drills K

**Comments:**

**Frequency:** \_\_\_\_ times per week

**Duration:** \_\_\_\_ weeks

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

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