Hospital for Special Surgery **HSS-Main Campus**

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Hospital for Special Surgery HSS-Brooklyn

148 39th St, 7th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11232

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PHYSICAL THERAPY PROTOCOL PATELLAR/QUAD TENDON REPAIR

Procedure	Date of Surgery:	
	R L B/L Knee	
	Quad Tendon Repair Patellar Tendon Repair	
	Additional Procedures:	
Plan	Physical Therapy for R L B/L Lower Extremity	
	2-3x Per Week x 8 Weeks	
General Guidelines	Please read and follow guidelines below. Progression is both criteria-based and patient	
	specific. Phases and time frames are designed to give the clinician a general sense of	
	progression. Concomitant procedures such as additional ligament reconstruction, meniscal	
	repair and articular cartilage procedures may alter the guideline.	
	Follow physician's modifications as prescribed	

PHASE I (surgery to 2 weeks after surgery)			
Appointments	Rehabilitation appointments begin 3-5 days after surgery		
Rehabilitation Goals	Protect the post-surgical repair		
Precautions and Range of Motion (ROM)	 Ambulate with crutches Continually use the dial brace locked in extension and crutches for weight-bearingas tolerated (WBAT). The brace must be worn and locked at all times other than when performing rehabilitation exercises. No active or passive flexion first 2 weeks. Allow passive 0-30 with supervision starting at week 2. Keep the incision and sutures dry. 		
Cardiovascular Exercise	Upper body circuit training or upper body ergometer (UBE)		
Progression Criteria	Progress two weeks post-operatively		

PHASE II (begin after meeting Phase I criteria, usually 2-6 weeks after surgery)				
Appointments	Rehabilitation appointments are 1-2 times per week			
Rehabilitation Goals	Normalize gait with WBAT with gradual progression, continuing to use the brace locked in extension, the ability to			
	discontinue the crutches will be determined by the			

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	rehabilitation provider and physician based on your progress
	and leg control
	Protection of post-surgical repair
Precautions and Range of Motion (ROM)	 Continually use the dial brace locked in extension and use crutches for WBAT, with gradual progression, for ambulation, the brace must be worn and locked at all times other than when performing rehabilitation exercises. Weeks 3-6 = 0° to 90° of knee motion without active quadriceps extension (i.e. no active knee extension) Precautions and ROM limits may be altered by the surgeon based on the integrity of the repair and associated injury. These changes will be specifically stated by the surgeon
Suggested Therapeutic Exercise	Heel slides
	Knee extension ROM with foot resting on a towel roll
	4-way leg lifts with brace locked in extension
	Gentle patellar mobilizations
	Weight shifting on to surgical side with brace on
Cardiovascular Exercise	Upper body circuit training or UBE
Progression Criteria	Normal gait mechanics without crutches
	Active knee ROM at least 0°-0°-110°

PHASE III (begin after meeting Phase II criteria, usually 6-12 weeks after surgery)		
Appointments	Rehabilitation appointments are once every week	
Rehabilitation Goals	Normalize gait on all surfaces without brace	
	Single leg stand with good control for 10 seconds	
	Full knee ROM	
	Good control with squat to 70° of knee flexion	
Precautions and Range of Motion (ROM)	Avoid any forceful eccentric contractions	
	Avoid impact activities	
	Avoid exercises that create movement compensations	
Suggested Therapeutic Exercise	Non-impact balance and proprioceptive drills	
	Stationery bike	
	Gait drills	
	Hip and core strengthening	
	Stretching for patient specific muscle imbalances	
Cardiovascular Exercise	Replicate sport/work specific energy demands	

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Progression Criteria	•	Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities,
		without pain, instability or swelling.
	•	Physician and rehabilitation specialist approval

PHASE IV (begin at 12 weeks after surgery and continue until progression criteria is met)			
Appointments	Rehabilitation appointments are once every 1-3 weeks		
Rehabilitation Goals	 Good control and no pain with sport and work specific movements, including impact 		
Precautions and Range of Motion (ROM)	 Post-activity soreness should resolve within 24 hours Avoid post-activity swelling Avoid running with a limp 		
Suggested Therapeutic Exercise	 Impact control exercises beginning 2 feet to 2 feet, progressing from 1 foot to other and then 1 foot to same foot. Movement control exercise beginning with low velocity, single plane activities and progressing to higher velocity, multi-plane activities. Sport/work specific balance and proprioceptive drills Hip and core strengthening Stretching for patient specific muscle imbalances 		
Cardiovascular Exercise	Replicate sport/work specific energy demands		
Return to Sport/Work Criteria	Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities, without pain or swelling		
Progression Criteria	 Patient may return to sport after receiving clearance from the orthopedic surgeon and the physical therapist/athletic trainer 		