



REHABILITATION GUIDELINES SUBACROMIAL DECOMPRESSION (SAD) ACROMIOPLASTY/ACROMIONECTOMY

This procedure is performed to relieve the pain associated with impingement syndrome

The following protocol is for an open procedure where the anterior deltoid muscle is divided to gain access to the acromioclavicular joint, subacromial space and rotator cuff for inspection. The patient is placed in a sling or an ultra sling to discourage active use until three to four weeks. AROM of the glenohumeral joint is not permitted until after 5 weeks following the surgery due to repair of the anterior deltoid muscle.

IMMEDIATE POST-OP

DOS:

- Released from surgery in a sling or an ultra-sling, to be worn between exercise sessions and at night
- Active elbow, wrist and hand exercises
- Pendulum exercises within pain restraints
- Scapular retraction, protraction, depression and elevation are encouraged.
- Active external and internal rotations are permitted as long as the arm is kept in neutral position at the patient's side. No active forward flexion.
- TENS, modalities and ice can be used if necessary for pain control

1 WEEK POST-OP

DATE:

- Continue postoperative phase instructions
- Begin passive range of motion in all planes except extension (extension stresses the repaired deltoid). Attempt to achieve full passive range of motion by postoperatively week four.

2 WEEKS POST-OP

DATE:

- Continue postoperative instructions
- Continue PROM
- Table slides for self passive range of motion could be beneficial for forward flexion and abduction/scaption
- May begin light resisted exercises for wrist and hand

3 WEEKS POST-OP

DATE:

- Continue previous instructions
- Scar massage with lotion is initiated

4 WEEKS POST-OP

DATE:

- Pulley exercises may be initiated



5-7 WEEKS POST-OP

DATE:

- Discontinue sling or ultra-sling...per physician instruction
- May initiate active range of motion-forward elevation
- May begin active extension
- If chronic stiffness persists heat and joint mobilization can be added

8 WEEKS POST-OP

DATE:

- Progressive strengthening program is initiated. Emphasis will be on scapular stabilizers initially with theraband. Progress with weights as comfort permits.
- Avoid impingement positions and activities

3-6 MONTHS POST-OP

DATE:

- Continue strengthening 2-3 times per week
- Return to normal activities, including sports as tolerated/per physician orders