

ACL Reconstruction PT Protocol

Phase I – Weeks 0 to 2:

- WBAT, Brace locked at 0 degrees for ambulation and sleeping
- D/C crutches when gait is non-antalgic
- ROM: 0-90° with emphasis on full extension
- Patella mobilization
- SLR supine with brace locked at 0 degrees, Quad Sets
- Ankle Pumps
- Short crank (90mm) ergometry

Phase II – Weeks 2 to 6:

- Brace: unlocked when quad control is adequate
- Discontinued brace when quad control is adequate (typically 4 weeks)
- ROM: 0-125 degrees (Maintain full extension)
- Active knee extension from 40 degrees
- Standard (170mm) ergometry (if knee ROM > 115 degrees)
- Leg Press (80-0 degree arc)
- Mini Squats / Weight Shifts
- Proprioception training
- Initiate Step Up program

Phase III – Weeks 6 to 14:

- Progressive Squat program
- Initiate Step Down program
- Leg Press, Lunges
- Isotonic Knee Extensions (90-40 degrees, closed chain preferred)
- Agility exercises (sport cord)
- Versaclimber/Nordic Track
- Retrograde treadmill ambulation

Phase IV – Weeks 14 to 22:

- Begin forward running (treadmill) program when 8" step down satisfactory
- Continue Strengthening & Flexibility program
- Advance Sports-Specific Agility Drills
- Start Plyometric program

Phase V - >22 Weeks

- Advance plyometric program, return to sports (MD directed)