James B. Cowan, MD SLAP Repair Protocol

SLAP Repair

	Phase I: Weeks 0-2	Phase II: Weeks 2-4	Phase III: Weeks 4-8
Weight-Bearing and Immobilization	 Sling with abduction pillow at all times except for dressing, hygiene, or during PT exercises Non-weight-bearing 		Wean from and discontinue sling May begin non-repetitive non-resistive ADLs at chest level and below
Aerobic	Stationary bike Walking on flat ground		
Range of Motion (ROM)	 Passive FF to 90° in scapular plane Passive ER to neutral Passive ABD to 45° No IR behind back 	 Passive FF to 140° in scapular plane Passive ER to 20° Passive ABD to 45° No IR behind back 	 Progress PROM to AAROM to AROM Active FF to 150° Active ER to 45° Active ABD to 60° Active IR to sacrum
Strengthening	 Pain-free, sub-maximal, deltoid isometrics in neutral rotation No resisted forward flexion, elbow flexion, or supination 		 Scapular stabilizers Isometrics and light bands while adhering to above ROM limitations No resisted FF, elbow flexion, or supination until 6 weeks
Goals	 Pain control Protect tissue healing Minimize joint stiffness Minimize muscle atrophy 		Increase ROM Increase strength

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	Phase IV: Weeks 8-12	Phase V: Weeks >12
Weight-Bearing and Immobilization	May begin non-repetitive non-resistive ADLs at chest level and below	• WBAT
Aerobic	May begin elliptical machineMay begin walk-jog-run program	 Continue walk-jog-run progression May begin upper extremity ergometer, ergometer, and vertical climber May begin advanced conditioning and sport- specific training
Range of Motion (ROM)	 Progress to full AROM If ROM is lacking in any plane, may begin gentle passive stretching at end ranges of motion 	Continue to progress to full AROM If ROM is lacking, continue gentle passive stretching at end ranges of motion
Strengthening	 Advance strengthening as tolerated Progress from isometrics/bands to light lights (1-5 pounds, 8-12 repetitions, 2-3 sets) for rotator cuff, deltoid, and scapular stabilizers 	Begin eccentrically resisted motions, plyometric exercises, proprioceptive exercises, and closed chain exercises Begin sport-specific exercises
Goals	Full ROM Increase strength	Progress to full ROM if not yet achieved Progress to full strength if not yet achieved

Throwing Athletes

- May return to throwing 4.5 months (18 weeks) after surgery
- May return to pitching from a mound 6 months (24 weeks) after surgery