

REVERSE TOTAL SHOULDER ARTHROPLASTY PHYSICAL THERAPY PROTOCOL

Recommend 2-3x/week for 8 weeks Please contact office for renewal as needed

Weeks 0-4	Wrist flexion and extension: Codman's Exercises/Pendulums: Let arm move in clockwise and counter-clockwise motion, by rocking body weight in circular motion. Do this for 1 minute, 3x/day. With palm either up or thumb down, gently bend the elbow as far as possible, then straighten out as far as possible.
	• 3 home exercises provided above: perform each exercise for 1-2 minutes, 3-4x/day
	Patient to remain in sling at all times except for personal hygiene and exercises above
	 Avoid at-risk positions (pushing up from seated position, extension and external rotation)
Weeks	Ok to remove the sling during the day for light or stationary activities
4-6	Continue sling at night and outside the house
	Continue light exercises from weeks 0-4
	Begin gentle PROM in physical therapy
	• Goal of passive 90° FF / 20° ER by 6 weeks post op
Weeks	Discontinue use of the sling
6-12	 PROM → AAROM → AROM as tolerated except:
	• Goals: increase ROM as tolerated to minimum 90° FF / 20° ER no manipulation
	 Begin light resisted ER / FF / ABD isometrics and bands, concentric motions only
	No scapular retractions with bands
	 No resisted internal rotation / backward extension until 12 weeks post-op (risks dislocation)
Months	 Begin resisted IR/BE (isometrics/bands); isometric → light bands → weights
3-12	• Advance strengthening as tolerated; 10 reps/1 set per exercise for rotator cuff, deltoid,
	and scapular stabilizers
	• Increase ROM to full with passive stretching at end ranges
	Begin eccentric motions, plyometrics, and closed chain exercises at 12 weeks