

Patella Fracture Repair/Fixation

Physical Therapy Post-op Protocol

Weeks 0-6

Primary goals: Eliminate swelling; initial ROM

- Foot flat weight bearing in brace with crutches or walker
- Brace:
 - 0-2 weeks: locked in extension at all times
 - 2-6 weeks: 0-30 degrees, advance 15 degrees per week to 0-60 by 6 weeks, no active extension
- ROM:
 - 0-2 weeks: locked in extension
 - 2-6 weeks: 0-30 degrees, advance 15 per week to 0-60.
- Exercises
 - 0-2 weeks: calf pumps
 - 2-6 weeks: Heel slides, quad sets, 4-way leg lifts with brace locked in extension, abductor side raises, patellar mobilizations, SLRs at 4 weeks

Weeks 6-10

Primary goals: Increase ROM, Normalize Gait

- Advance to full range of motion
- Discontinue brace as quad control returns with ambulation, at 8-10 week mark
- Begin discontinue crutches at 8 weeks if quad control
- Active ROM
- Prone knee flexion
- Stationary bike without resistance, light aquatic exercises
- Closed chain quadriceps control once full weightbearing
- Soft tissue mobilizations
- Avoid forceful eccentric contractions

Weeks 11-16

Primary goals: Increase strength, normal ROM

- Normalize gait on all surfaces
- Single leg stance with good control for 10 secs
- Good control with squat to 70 deg of knee flexion
- Avoid forceful eccentric contractions
- Non-impact balance and proprioception

- Cardiovascular: Replicate sport/work specific energy demand
 - Stationary bike for strength and endurance

Months 4-6

Primary goals: Full painless ROM, advanced strength

- Advance strengthening as tolerated
- Maximize core, gluteal strength, pelvic stability, eccentric hamstrings
- Advance to elliptical, bike, pool as tolerate
- Begin agility and cutting activities when strength adequate

Months 6+

Primary Goals: return to function/sport

- Advance functional activity
- Return to sport specific activity when cleared by MD