SHOULDER EXERCISE PROTOCOLS

Dr Craig Ball Shoulder and Elbow Specialist

Arthroscopic +/- Open Shoulder Release

Immediate post-op

- Sling only for comfort and public use
- Begin using hand for light-weight waist level activities
- Active elbow range of motion
 - standing with arm at side
 - bend elbow bringing hand towards shoulder then fully straighten
 - with elbow bent at 90 degrees look at palm, then at back of hand
 - repeat 10 times 3 to 5 times per day
- Active hand range of motion
 - curl your fingers and make a fist
 - squeeze and hold for 3 seconds then release
 - repeat 10 times 3 to 5 times per day
- Pendulum exercises
 - while standing bend forward at waist with other arm supported on a stable surface
 - allow affected arm to hang straight down
 - slowly make shoulder width circles with entire arm, first clockwise then counterclockwise
 - repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day
- Passive forward elevation as comfort allows
 - lying on back
 - grasp affected arm at wrist with other hand
 - raise straight up and take to a comfortable stretch
 - hold for 3 seconds then return to side
 - repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day
- Passive external rotation as comfort allows
 - lying on back with affected arm resting on a pillow by side
 - bend elbow to 90 degrees
 - use other hand or a stick or cane to slowly rotate affected arm away from your body
 - take to a comfortable stretch and hold for 3 seconds then return to side
 - repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day











Extension

- while standing hold stick or cane with both hands behind back
- slowly raise both hands away from you as far as possible
- hold for 3 seconds then slowly lower hands
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day
- keep back and elbows straight at all times

Internal rotation

- stand with affected arm behind back
- using a towel or your unaffected arm pull your affected arm up your back
- hold for 3 seconds then slowly lower
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day

• Cross body adduction

- while standing hold affected elbow with unaffected hand in front of your body
- slowly pull across your body until a comfortable stretch
- hold for 3 seconds then return to neutral
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day

Isometric exercises

- standing with arm at side and elbow bent to 90 degrees
- put unaffected hand on palm of affected hand
- push gently together to activate the muscles
- no movement at all should occur
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day
- repeat with unaffected hand on back of affected hand

Shoulder shrugs

- sitting or standing
- raise both shoulders up to your ears
- hold for 3 seconds then return to neutral
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day

• Shoulder retraction

- sitting or standing
- squeeze your shoulder blades together
- hold for 3 seconds then return to neutral
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day

• Shoulder protraction

- sitting or standing
- push both shoulders forward to a comfortable stretch
- hold for 3 seconds then return to neutral
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day

Chin tucks

- sitting or standing
- begin with good posture and lift your chest
- keep looking straight ahead
- tuck your chin in toward the back of your neck
- hold for 3 seconds then stretch your chin forwards
- repeat 10 times 2 to 3 times per day



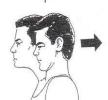










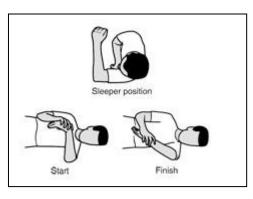


6 to 12 weeks post-op

- Increase use of hand for all activities
- Continue all stretches as above
- Begin shoulder strengthening exercises (sheet will be provided)

> 12 weeks post-op

- Progressive return to functional activities
- Continue all stretches and strengthening as above (aim for full ROM return)
- Sleeper stretch to regain internal ROM



- Consider structured gym based strength program
- Sport specific training with return to contact sport delayed until 6 months post-surgery