



Ankle Arthroscopic Debridement

Precautions: The patient will be WBAT with crutches.

Phase I (1 – 5 days post-op)

- Wound care: Observe for signs of infection and begin scar management techniques when incision is closed.
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC)
- ROM: None
- Gait: WBAT with crutches.
- Boot/Brace: As directed by MD

Phase II (5 days – 4 weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Observe for signs of infection and begin scar management techniques when incision is closed.
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC)
 - Consider contrast bath if significant edema
- ROM: Begin AROM/ PROM
- Strengthening
 - Begin isometrics and progress to active strengthening (i.e. light Theraband) as tolerated
 - Initiate with closed-chain strengthening
- Gait: WBAT wean from crutches by 4 weeks
- Balance/Proprioceptive Activities: Initiate at 6 wks post-op if FWB
 - BAPS
 - Balance board
 - Progress from double to single leg balance activities.

Phase III (4 – 10 weeks post-op)

- Wound care: Continue scar management techniques.
- Modalities: prn for pain and swelling (ice, IFC, contrast bath)
- ROM: Continue ROM at 4 wks, then progress to more aggressive as tolerated
- Strengthening
 - Continue isometrics and progress to active strengthening (i.e. Theraband) as tolerated
 - Advance closed chain strengthening.
- Gait: WBAT
- Balance/Proprioceptive Activities:
 - Progress from two legged balance activities to single leg.
 - BAPS
 - Balance board
 - Progress from double to single leg balance activities.



Phase IV (10+ weeks post-op)

- Wound care: continue scar management techniques
- Modalities: continue prn
- ROM: continue as phase III
- Strengthening: continue as phase III
- Balance/Proprioceptive Activities: Progress to single leg if have not already
 - Advance to running and agility drills, plyometrics, sports-specific activities at 12 – 14 weeks depending on M.D. restrictions
 - Functional Testing: less than 25% deficit for non-athletes, less than 20% for athletes

Adapted from:

- 1) Brotzman SB, Wilk KE. Clinical Orthopedic Rehabilitation. 2nd Ed. Philadelphia: Mosby; 2003
- 2) Ferkel RD, Whipple TL (Ed). Arthroscopic Surgery: The Foot and Ankle. Philadelphia: Lippincott – Raven; 1996
- 3) Maxey L, Magnusson J. Rehabilitation for the Postsurgical Orthopedic Patient. St. Louis: Mosby; 2001