SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PCL RUPTURE

Initial precautions: Avoid knee hyperextension for 12/52 and active hamstrings work for 16/52. Brace should be worn for 6 months at all times except showering and changing clothes.

0-6 weeks
- Pain relief and swelling management (POLICE).
- Place in cricket splint, referral to appliances for PCL brace fitting.
- NWB for 6/52 in PCL brace.
- In prone only: Gentle passive knee ROM (0-90°) for 2/52, then FROM as able.
- TAQ’s, SLR, Hip Add and Abd maintenance exercises.
- Patella mobilisation (superior/inferior, medial/lateral).
- Gentle gastrocnemius stretches.

6 – 12 weeks
- Continue with previous ex’s and add gentle hamstrings stretches.
- WBAT in PCL brace as able if no limp.
- Double legged OKC quads and CKC ex’s <70° knee flexion (3 sets of 20 reps).
- ROM exercises can now be performed in supine.
- Hamstrings bridges on gym ball with knees extended.
- Static bike (no resistance) when sufficient ROM.
- Weight bearing proprioception exercises and heel raises once FWB.

12 – 18 weeks
- Progress ex’s to single leg (leg press, step ups, side dips etc)
- Progressive increase of resistance and duration on static bike
- Progress strength exercises beyond 70° knee flexion from week 16
- Single leg bridges with knee flexed to 90° from week 16.
- Start isolated OKC hamstrings exercises from week 16

19 – 25 weeks
- Strength bias ex’s (3 sets of 8-12 reps).
- Discontinue PCL brace from week 24.

25 weeks +
- Start jogging if sufficient strength and stability with functional ex’s and quadriceps girth >90% of uninjured side (measure 15cm above superior border of patella).
- Graduated running program – start with 1 minute run, 4 minute walk (1:4) for 20 minutes. Increase running time by 1 minute each week with subsequent reduction of walk by 1 minute (2:3) so that the patient should be able to run for 20 minutes after 5 weeks.
- Once running program completed progress from single to multi-plane agility ex’s.
- Return to training for specific sports.
- Return to contact sports if >85% of good leg on functional testing.

References:


Originator: The Knee resource
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