



Christopher Kim, MD

The Iowa Clinic Orthopaedics Department

Distal Biceps Repair Protocol

Phase I: Week 1

Guidelines:

- Posterior splint at 90 degrees of elbow flexion
- Wrist and hand gripping exercises

Phase II: Weeks 2-6

Guidelines:

- Elbow ROM brace locked at 90 degrees until 6 weeks
- Elbow ROM goals during therapy:
 - Week 2 @ 45-100
 - Week 4 @ 30-115
 - Week 6 @ 15-130
- Shoulder exercises (rotator cuff)
- Scapular strengthening
- Wrist extensors and flexors
- No active elbow flexion or supination
- Gripping exercises
- Weeks 5-6
 - Isometric triceps exercises

Phase III: Weeks 6-10

Guidelines:

- Elbow ROM
- Discontinue brace @ Week 8 (0-145 degrees)
- Week 8 begin
 - Light isotonic triceps
 - Isotonic wrist flexors/extensors
 - Shoulder isotonics
 - Continue rotator cuff and scapular exercises
 - Progress weight 1lb. per week

Phase IV: Weeks 10-16

Guidelines:

- Biceps isometrics @ Week 12
- Continue flexibility exercises
- ROM/stretching exercises
- Weeks 10-12
 - Initiate UBE

Phase V: Weeks 16-26

Guidelines

- Light biceps isotonics (Week 16)
- Plyometrics
 - Two-handed @ Week 16
 - Progress to one-handed at week 20-22

Phase VI: Weeks 26+

Guidelines:

- Return to Activity
- Sport Specific Training