

**Scott Adrian, M.D.**  
*Advanced Orthopaedic Associates*

2778 N. Webb Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67226

316-631-1600  
Fax: (316) 631-1671  
1 (800) 362-0591



**TOTAL SHOULDER REHABILITATION PROTOCOL  
TYPE 1 - FIXATION & STABILITY GOOD**

PHASE 1- (2nd Day to 4th Week Post-Op)

2 - 5 Days Post-Op

A. Early passive ROMs & active assisted ROMs

1. Supine position

a) Forward elevation, passive & assisted

b) External rotation with arm at side – physician will specify range

5 Days - 4 Weeks

A. Continue above ROMs

B. Pendulum exercises

C. Assisted extension

D. Assisted internal rotation - posterior to trunk

E. Assisted external rotation - arms clasped behind neck

F. 3rd Week: Start Isometrics

1. External rotation

2. Internal rotation

3. Extensors, flexors, abductors

PHASE II - (4 - 6 Weeks to 3 Months) Active Exercise Program

A. Supine forward elevation

B. Standing forward elevation assisted by other extremity

C. Continue rotational exercises

D. Controlled self-stretching

6th Week:

A. Convert isometrics to resistance exercises, use various grades of elastic tubing

B. Strengthen in internal rotation, external rotation, forward flexion, abduction and extension

PHASE III - (After 3 Months)

A. Residual deficiencies in range-of-motion and strength can be addressed by stretching and continued strengthening

B. Light weights or progressive resistance tubing for strengthening is used

## **TOTAL SHOULDER REHABILITATION PROTOCOL TYPE II – POOR FIXATION, MUSCLE OR BONE DEFICIENCIES**

In subjects with poor fixation or muscle or bone deficiencies, it will be necessary to alter the rehabilitation goals to maintain stability and prevent tendon, muscle or bone disruption. This is a limited-goals category of rehabilitation. Examples include: 1) large repaired rotator cuff tears, 2) poor stability due to inherent tissue problems, 3) when glenoid or humeral bone grafts are needed to fill bony deficiencies.

In this setting, initiation *of* exercises are delayed and the extent of passive or assisted early motion is reduced. Typically, elevation should be limited to 90° and external rotation to 20°. Most of these patients will be in an abduction splint or pillow, and passive elevation and external rotation should be carried out with the splint on, thus not allowing the arm to fall to the patient's side. After the initial 4 weeks, the total shoulder protocol, Type I (good fixation and stability), should be initiated. Individualized rehabilitation protocols for the above group *of* patients are very common and are dependent on the pathology noted and repaired at surgery.