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MICROFRACTURE FEMORAL CONDYLE PROTOCOL

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- CPM machine at 0°- 60° for the first few days, then increase by 5° increments per day as tolerated. Utilize CPM for at least 4 weeks unless otherwise instructed by M.D.
- Non Weight Bearing to Toe Touch Weight Bearing with crutches with brace locked at 0° for 4-6 weeks (Specified by the M.D.).
- Brace locked in full extension for one week and then unlocked in 10-20° increments when adequate quadriceps control is established. Wean from brace at 6 weeks unless otherwise instructed by M.D.
- Sleep in the brace unless otherwise instructed by M.D.
- Keep the entire leg elevated. Do not place pillows under the knee for long periods of time.
- Utilize cryotherapy for 20 to 30 minutes every hour for pain and swelling reduction.

WEEKS 0-3

- Restore patellar mobility.
- Restore knee extension (low load-long duration stretching).
- Hamstring/gastrocnemius stretches.
- Ankle ROM for swelling and DVT prevention.
- PROM of knee as tolerated(Seated flexion, assisted heel slides, wall slides)-Goal of 90° by week 3.
- 4-way open chain straight leg exercises.
- *Focus on the knee remaining locked in a concentric and eccentric phase. Increase reps and hold time initially, before adding resistance. No ankle weight until extensor lag is eliminated.*
- Modalities as needed for pain and swelling.
- NMES for Quadriceps activation and re-education.

WEEKS 4-7

- Increase ROM as tolerated, to full.
- Continue to increase hip resistance during open chain exercises as tolerated.

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- May start light aquatic exercises once good Quadriceps control is established. (*Continue to honor restricted range of motion if applicable*)
- Isometric hamstring strengthening on a ball.
- Initiate stationary bike for range of motion without resistance.

WEEKS 8-12

- Increase resistance with all exercises as tolerated.
- Increase leg strength to allow for normal gait and walking longer distances.
- Start closed chain exercises as tolerated in a protected range. (1/3 Partial Squats, Leg press with light resistance and high repetitions, calf raises, proprioceptive exercises, BAPS board)
- Initiate Step up/down exercises without compensations.
- Increase resistance with stationary bike.
- Sport specific exercises and Sportsmetrics program.
- Initiate jogging program when allowed by M.D.
- Agility drills when tolerated.
- Increase Cardio as tolerated.