ADVANCED MENISCUS REPAIR: RADIAL, ROOT, HORIZONTAL CLEAVAGE TEAR CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Disclaimer

The following rehabilitation guidelines are specific to patients who have undergone an advanced meniscus repair of a radial, root or horizontal cleavage tear. Please refer to the Ohio States Sports Medicine website for rehabilitation guidelines specific to other procedures and conditions, as appropriate.

Progression is criterion-based and dependent on soft tissue healing, patient demographics, and clinical evaluation. The time frames identified for each phase of rehabilitation are approximate times for the average patient and not recommended as guidelines for progression for the individual patient. It is recommended that progression is based upon the achievement of functional criteria demonstrating readiness for progression, noted at the end of each phase.

Background

Meniscal root/radial tears present in a variety of forms, ranging from partial to complete avulsion. Root and radial tears can have a profound effect on the health of the articular cartilage of the knee with the potential for meniscal extrusion and accelerated arthritic degeneration if left untreated. Horizontal cleavage tears can result in advanced degeneration of the meniscus tissue and underlying cartilage, especially during high-impact activity. The listed clinical recommendations are a result of the complexity of the surgical technique.

The rehabilitation recommendations below are based upon the guidance of content experts, surgeons, and evidence-based practice. Progression through each phase, after precautions have been lifted, is based on the patient demonstrating readiness by achieving the listed functional criteria.



Summary of Recommendations

Sullilliary Of	Necommendations								
Precautions	 WBing and bracing recommendations are based on tear morphology and intra-operative findings. Recommendations are below. However, ALWAYS refer to the operative note contact the surgical team for clarification. For root/radial tears – no resisted isotonic hamstring strengthening x8 weeks Many of these patients will be encouraged to wear a medial unloader brace for the first 12 months post-op 								
Risk Factors	The patient should be monitored for signs and symptoms of DVT (see Red/Yellow Flag section)								
Weight Bearing/Bracing	Root Repair: TROM immobilizer for first 10-14 days post-op NWBing x 4 weeks, with a goal of crutch discharge by 6 weeks								
	Radial Repair:								
	 Horizontal Cleavage Repair: No brace NWBing x 2-4 weeks, crutches should be discharged no later than 6 weeks 								
	Please refer to the "post-op plan" section of the operative note or contact the surgeon for clarification								
Range of Motion	 • Week 0-2: 0-90° • Week 2-4: progress to full PROM • Week 4+: full AROM Symmetrical knee extension should be achieved by week 4. If not achieved by week 4, contact surgeon 								
Outcome Tools	Collect the LEFS at each visit								
	You may choose to include IKDC, KOOS, ACL-RSI, Tegner or other questionnaires specific to your patient's needs								
Hamstring Considerations	Root/Radial Repairs: No resisted isotonic hamstring strengthening x8 weeks No hamstring precautions for horizontal cleavage repairs								
Functional Testing	 Isometric Testing Root/Radial Repairs: 4 months Horizontal Cleavage Repairs: 3 months Isokinetic Testing Root/Radial Repairs: 6 months Horizontal Cleavage Repairs: 4 months Hop testing: should not be performed prior to 6 months post-op and is only appropriate after 80% symmetry is achieved on isokinetic testing SL hop for distance Triple hop Cross over hop Timed 6m hop *Functional strength testing and hop testing should be reserved for patients returning to high level activity* 								



Criteria to Discharge Assistive Device	 ROM: Full active knee extension; no pain on passive overpressure Strength: Able to perform strong quad isometric with full tetany and superior patellar glide and able to perform 2x10 SLR without quad lag Effusion: 1+ or less is preferred (2+ acceptable if all other criteria are met) Weight Bearing: Demonstrates pain-free ambulation without visible gait deviation 							
Criteria to D/C NMES	 <20% quad deficit on isometric testing If Biodex not available: 10 SLR without quad lag Normal gait 10 heel taps to 60° knee flexion with good quality 10 rep max on leg press and similar effort bilaterally Inability to break quad MMT (5/5) 							
Criteria to Initiate Running and Jumping	 ROM: full, pain-free knee ROM, symmetrical with the uninvolved limb Strength: Isokinetic testing 80% or greater for hamstring and quad at 60°/sec and 300°/sec Effusion: 1+ or less Weight Bearing: normalized gait and jogging mechanics Neuromuscular Control: Pain-free hopping in place 							
Criteria to Return to Sports Participation	 ROM: full, pain-free knee ROM, symmetrical with the uninvolved limb Strength: Isokinetic testing 90% or greater for hamstring and quad at 60°/sec and 300°/sec Effusion: No reactive effusion ≥ 1+ with sport-specific activity Weight Bearing: normalized gait and jogging mechanics Neuromuscular control: appropriate mechanics and force attenuation strategies with high level agility, plyometrics, and high impact movements Functional Hop Testing: LSI 90% or greater for all tests Physician Clearance 							
Return to Sport Expectation	6-12 months depending on type of repair, patient's goals and sports-specific demands							

RED/YELLOW FLAGS

Red Flags Require immediate referral for re- evaluation	 Signs of DVT→ Refer directly to ED Localized tenderness along the distribution of deep venous system Entire LE swelling Calf swelling >3cm compared to asymptomatic limb Pitting edema Collateral superficial veins Lack of full knee extension by 4 weeks post-op→Refer to surgeon for re-evaluation Mechanical block or clunk→Refer to surgeon for re-evaluation Reported episodes of instability→Refer to surgeon for re-evaluation
Yellow Flags Require modifications to plan of care	Persistent reactive effusion or pain following therapy or ADLs Decrease intensity of rehab interventions, continue effusion management, educate patient regarding activity modifications until symptoms resolve



Phase I: Protection (Post-Operative—6 weeks)

Protect repair, restore ROM, minimize effusion and pain while adhering to all post-operative precautions Effusion management strategies: cryotherapy and compression as appropriate • Week 0-2: 0-90° • Week 2-4: progress to full PROM • Week 4+: full AROM Symmetrical knee extension should be achieved by week 4. If not achieved by week 4, contact surgeon								
								 Root Repair: TROM immobilizer for first 10-14 days post-op NWBing x 4 weeks, with a goal of crutch discharge by 6 weeks
								 Radial Repair: Typically NWBing x 4 weeks, with a goal of crutch discharge by 6 weeks WBing status and bracing are patient dependent – always refer to the operative note or contact the surgical team for clarification
 Horizontal Cleavage Repair: No brace NWBing x 2-4 weeks, crutches should be discharged no later than 6 weeks Please refer to the "post-op plan" section of the operative note or contact the surgeon for clarification 								
 For root/radial tears – no resisted isotonic hamstring strengthening x8 weeks Ankle pumps Quadriceps, hamstring and gluteal isometrics Diaphragmatic breathing Effusion management strategies (RICE) Extension ROM: Seated towel stretch, bag hang (Appendix A) Flexion ROM: Use PROM/AAROM techniques for first 4 weeks Heel slides, wall slides, upright cycling (starting week 2 for ROM only, ½ revolutions → full revolutions) Strong emphasis on patellar mobilizations – all directions Prone TKE SLR-4 way Consider progression with progressing to seated, eyes closed, holds, pulses, ABCs Gait training (as appropriate per WBing status and post-op precautions) SAQ (unweighted) LAQ 								

Standing TKE (perform through phases of gait)



	l								
	SLS – eyes open → eyes closed								
NMES Parameters (Appendix B)	 NMES pads are placed on the proximal and distal quadriceps Patient: Seated with the knee in at least 60° flexion, shank secured with strap and back support with thigh strap preferred. The ankle pad/belt should be two finger widths superior to the lateral malleoli The patient is instructed to relax while the e-stim generates at least 50% of their max volitional quadriceps contraction OR maximal tolerable amperage without knee joint pain 20 seconds on/ 50 seconds off x 15 min 								
Criteria to Discharge Assistive Device	 ROM: Full active knee extension; no pain on passive overpressure Strength: Able to perform strong quad isometric with full tetany and superior patellar glide and able to perform 2x10 SLR without quad lag Effusion: 1+ or less is preferred (2+ acceptable if all other criteria are met) Weight Bearing: Demonstrates pain-free ambulation without visible gait deviation 								
Criteria to Progress to Early Loading Phase	 Pain-free knee flexion of >120 degrees Pain-free and full passive knee extension Proficient heel-to-toe gait without assistive device Reduced and well-controlled post-operative pain and edema Ability to perform a strong isometric quadriceps contraction (full tetany and superior patellar glide) and SLR without evidence of quad lag Proficiency with home-exercise program 								
Phase II: Ear	rly Loading (7-9 Weeks)								
Goals	Emphasis is placed on normalizing ROM, improving quadriceps/gluteal/core strength and safe progression towards functional loading								
Pain and Effusion	Cryotherapy/compression as needed for reactive effusion								
ROM	Full and pain-free ROM								
	Symmetrical knee extension should be achieved by week 4. If not achieved by week 4, contact surgeon								
Weight Bearing	FWBing with normalized gait pattern								
Suggested Interventions	For root/radial tears – no resisted isotonic hamstring strengthening x8 weeks Maintain CKC flexion <70° for all repair types Continue Phase I interventions and effusion management strategies Multi-angle knee isometrics from 90-60 degrees OKC Knee Extension (90-45° ROM) (week 7+) Bridges Side steps/monster walks Progress SLS (compliant surfaces, dynamic movements) Add lumbopelvic stability training (TrA progression, prone/side planks, ect) Partial BW Shuttle Press (DL→SL) Closed Chain exercises: mini-squats, wall sits, heel raises Initiate resisted hamstring strengthening at 8+ weeks for root/radial tears OKC hamstring strengthening (DL → SL) SB HS curl progression								



	Continue NMES
Criteria to Progress to Strengthening and Return to Function Phase	WB: normalized gait, able to tolerate CKC therex program without increased pain or effusion

Phase III: Strengthening/Return to Function (10-15 Weeks)

Goals	 Progress functional balance/NM control Progress LE strengthening Progress core stability 									
Pain and Effusion	Monitor reactive effusion as progressive loading is performed									
ROM Full ROM with no complaints of pain with end-range overpressure										
Weight Bearing	FWB with normalized gait pattern									
Suggested Interventions	 Maintain CKC flexion <70° for all repair types Continue Phase I/II interventions and effusion management as appropriate Continue to progress balance and proprioception interventions per patient's tolerance BOSU squats (DL → SL) Heel Taps: starting at 2" step and progressing per patient's tolerance/ability Step Ups: starting at 4-6" step and progressing per patient's tolerance/ability Resisted OKC quadriceps strengthening through full ROM (monitor PF symptoms) Stationary lunges → walking lunges SL sit to stand, through protected ROM Core strengthening Conditioning (permitted at 12+ weeks) Elliptical Treadmill walking Freestyle swimming (no fins until week 16) Continue NMES until 80% symmetry is obtained (see criteria to discharge below) 									
Strength Testing	Isometric testing:									
Criteria to Discharge NMES	 <20% quad deficit on isometric testing OR if Biodex machine is not available: 10 SLR without quad lag Normal gait 10 heel taps to 60 deg knee flexion with good quality 10 rep max on Leg Press and similar effort bilaterally Inability to break quad MMT 									
Criteria to Progress to Return to Activity Phase	 ROM: maintain full, pain free AROM Effusion: <1+ Strength: 80% LSI (isometric testing or alternative measure – see <i>Appendix D</i>) Weight Bearing: able to tolerate therapeutic exercise program without increased pain or >1+ effusion NM control: demonstrates proper lower extremity mechanics with all therapeutic exercises 									

Phase IV: Return to Activity (4 – 6 months)

Goals	Progress OKC interventions. Patients should continue skilled physical therapy to progress functional strengthening. Strength testing is performed to determine readiness to initiate Phase V (RTS).									
Pain and Effusion	Monitor reactive effusion as progressive loading performed									
ROM	Full ROM with no complaints of pain with end-range overpressure									
Weight Bearing	FWB with normalized gait pattern									
Strength Testing	Isometric Testing Root/Radial Repairs: 4 months Horizontal Cleavage Repairs: 3 months Root/Radial Repairs: 6 months Root/Radial Repairs: 6 months Horizontal Cleavage Repairs: 4 months Hop testing: should not be performed prior to 6 months post-op and is only appropriate after 80% symmetry is achieved on isokinetic testing SL hop for distance Triple hop Cross over hop Timed 6m hop *Functional strength testing and hop testing should be reserved for patients returning to high level activity*									
Suggested Interventions	 Maximum CKC flexion: 90° for all repair types Performance of the quadriceps, hamstrings and trunk dynamic stability SL squats, SL sit to stand, progress resistance on leg extension/leg curl/leg press machine, RDLs, lunges (multi-direction), crunches, rotational trunk exercises on static and dynamic surfaces, monster walks Single-leg squats on BOSU with manual perturbation to trunk or legs, Single-leg BOSU balance with perturbation/dynamic movement, single-leg BOSU Romanian deadlift Once strength criteria have been met, perform the following progression: PBW jumping on the shuttle (DL → SL) Full body weight jumping progression Walk-jog program 									
Criteria to Initiate Running and Jumping 4+ months for HCT 6+ months for Root/Radial	 ROM: full, pain-free knee ROM, symmetrical with the uninvolved limb Strength: Isokinetic testing 80% or greater for hamstring and quad at 60% sec and 300% sec Effusion: 1+ or less Weight Bearing: normalized gait and jogging mechanics Neuromuscular Control: Pain-free hopping in place 									
Criteria to Progress to Return to Sport Phase	 Quadriceps and hamstring symmetry of 80% or greater Ability to tolerate walking distances of 3 miles or greater without reactive pain or effusion Ability to effectively negotiate uneven ground, including soft sand, without reactive pain or effusion 									



• Ability to return to pre-operative low-impact recreational activities, including cycling, elliptical and weight training

Phase V: Return to Sport (6 months - RTS)

Goals	The patient is able to resume all normal functionality and will continue to progress towards return to sport							
Pain and Effusion	Monitor reactive effusion as progressive loading performed							
ROM	Full ROM with no complaints of pain during end-range overpressure							
Weight Bearing	FWB with normalized gait pattern							
Strength Testing	Isometric Testing							
Suggested Interventions	 No deep squatting (>90°) for 6+ months Continue progressive strength training per previous phases Agility Begin agility exercises between 50-75% effort (utilize visual feedback to improve mechanics as needed) Advance plyometrics: Bilateral to single leg, progress by altering surfaces, adding ball toss, 3D rotations, etc. Side shuffling, Carioca, Figure 8, Zig-zags, Resisted jogging (Sports Cord) in straight planes, backpedaling Plyometrics Single-leg hop downs from increasing height (up to 12" box), Single-leg hop-holds, Double and single-leg hopping onto unstable surface, Double and single-leg jump turns, Repeated tuck jumps Sport and position specific training 							
Criteria for Return to Sport	 ROM: full, pain free knee ROM, symmetrical with the uninvolved limb Strength: Isokinetic testing 90% or greater for hamstring and quad at 60°/sec and 300°/sec Effusion: No reactive effusion ≥ 1+ with sport-specific activity Weight Bearing: normalized gait and jogging mechanics Neuromuscular Control: appropriate mechanics and force attenuation strategies with high level agility, plyometrics, and high impact movements Functional Hop Testing: LSI 90% or greater for all tests Physician Clearance 							





Appendix A: Bag Hang

Emphasis on low load, long duration stretching

- o Goal: 60 minutes of bag hang time total per day.
- o Ideally: 4x15 minutes (or greater) per day



Appendix B: NMES Set Up

2 or 4 pad set-up is appropriate

- NMES pads are placed on the proximal and distal quadriceps
- Patient: Seated with the knee in at least 60° flexion, shank secured with strap and back support with thigh strap preferred. The ankle pad/belt should be two finger widths superior to the lateral malleoli
- o The patient is instructed to relax while the e-stim generates at least 50% of their max volitional contraction against a fixed resistance OR maximal tolerable amperage without knee joint pain
- o 10-20 seconds on/ 50 seconds off x 15 min



Appendix C: Isokinetic Data Interpretation

				ENSION DEG/SEC			EXION DEG/SEC			TENSION DEG/SEC			FLEXION 00 DEG/SEC	
	# OF REPS (60/60): 5		UNINVOL	INVOLVED	DEFICIT	UNINVOL	INVOLVED	DEFICIT	UNINVOL	INVOLVED	DEFICIT	UNINVOL	INVOLVED	DEFICIT
_	# OF REPS (300/300): 10		RIGHT	LEFT		RIGHT	LEFT		RIGHT	LEFT		RIGHT	LEFT	
۱_	PEAK TORQUE	FT-LBS	127.6	133.6	-4.7	53.1	54.5	-2.6	69.5	66.7	4.1	39.8	46.3	-16.3
`	PEAK TQ/BW	%	111.0	116.2		46.2	47.4		60.5	58.0		34.6	40.3	
	MAX REP TOT WORK	FT-LBS	138.4	141.7	-2.4	71.8	60.3	16.0	75.7	80.6	-6.5	37.1	29.6	20.0
_	COEFF. OF VAR.	%	2.8	2.1		3.4	8.4		8.5	7.0		9.1	10.4	
	AVG. POWER	WATTS	116.9	131.1	-12.2	59.5	52.8	11.3	211.9	232.4	-9.7	96.1	86.2	10.3
_	TOTAL WORK	FT-LBS	655.8	643.7	1.8	341.9	256.2	25.1	661.0	699.2	-5.8	322.6	274.1	15.0
	ACCELERATION TIME	MSEC	50.0	30.0		40.0	40.0		60.0	60.0		110.0	100.0	
	DECELERATION TIME	MSEC	50.0	50.0		40.0	30.0		90.0	80.0		90.0	80.0	
	ROM	DEG	95.6	89.8		95.6	89.8		95.8	95.6		95.8	95.6	
	AVG PEAK TQ	FT-LBS	124.7	130.8		51.0	49.1		60.7	61.9		30.3	39.7	
_	AGON/ANTAG RATIO	%	41.6	40.8	G: N/A				57.2	69.4	G: N/A			
· —	Stronger 4.7%		FLEXION Stronger 2.6%				Deficit 4.1%				Stronger 16.3%			
	60 DEG/5	SEC		60	DEG/S	SEC		30	o DEG/	SEC		300	DEG/	SEC

		Definition	Clinical Impact	What to do
Α	Peak Torque (ft-lbs)	Peak torque during repetitions	Symmetry criteria (see 'E'- this is the data represented in pie charts)	If <80%; continue unilateral, high resistance strength training
В	Coefficient of Variance (%)	Between repetition variability	Goal: < 15%	If >15%, consider retest
С	Total Work (ft-lbs)	Torque over all repetitions	Possible indicator of fatigue	If >10%; consider high volume training
D	Agonist/Antagonist Ratio (%)	Hamstring/Quadriceps Ratio	Goal: >60%	<60%; ensure 1:1 quadriceps:hamstring exercise ratio
E	Limb Symmetry Pie Charts	Strength relative to involved limb	Goal: <10% asymmetry (either direction- deficit OR stronger on involved limb)	If <80%, continue NMES in addition to strength training If <90%, continue unilateral > bilateral strength training emphasis

Appendix D: Isokinetic Testing and Appropriate Alternatives

Sinacore, J. A., Evans, A. M., Lynch, B. N., Joreitz, R. E., Irrgang, J. J., & Lynch, A. D. (2017). Diagnostic accuracy of handheld dynamometry and 1-repetition-maximum tests for identifying meaningful quadriceps strength asymmetries. *Journal of orthopaedic & sports physical therapy*, *47*(2), 97-107.

Isokinetic Dynamometry



- · Considered the "gold standard"
- 60°/sec for strength and power assessment
- 300°/second for speed and endurance assessment

Hand Held Dynamometry with Static Fixation at 90°



- Appropriate alternative
- Results may overestimate quadriceps strength symmetry: be cautious with data interpretation

SL 1RM Knee Extension Machine: 90°- 45°



- · Appropriate alternative
- Recommended to decrease stress on PF joint and limit strain on reconstructed ACL for up to 6 months
- Results may overestimate quadriceps strength symmetry: be cautious with data interpretation

SL 1RM Leg Press



- Fair alternative
- Results in significant overestimation of quadriceps strength symmetry due to compensation from other LE muscle groups

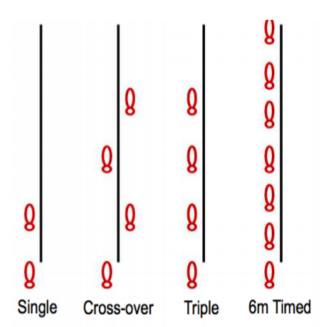
SL 1RM Knee Extension Machine: 90°- 0°



- Fair alternative
- May be uncomfortable and/or inappropriate due to PF stress

Appendix E: Single Leg Hop Series

- Single hop for distance: Have the subject line their heel up with the zero mark of the tape measure, wearing athletic shoes. The subject then hops as far as he/she can, landing on the same push off leg, for at least 3 seconds. The arms are allowed to move freely during the testing. Allow him/her to perform 2 practice hops on each leg. Then, have the subject perform 2 testing trial, recording each distance from the starting point to the back of the heel. Average the distanced hopped for each limb. The Limb Symmetry Index: Involved limb distance/Uninvolved limb distance X 100%.
- 2) Cross-over hop for distance: The subject lines their heel up with the zero mark of the tape measure and hops 3 times on one foot, crossing fully over the center line each time. Each subject should hop as far forward as he/she can on each hop, but only the total distance hopped is recorded. The arms are allowed to move freely during the testing. Allow him/her to perform 2 practice hops on each leg. Then, have the subject perform 2 testing trial, recording each distance from the starting point to the back of the heel. Average the distanced hopped for each limb. The Limb Symmetry Index: Involved limb distance/Uninvolved limb distance X 100%.
- 3) Triple hop for distance: The subject lines their heel up with the zero mark of the tape measure and hops 3 times on one foot. Each subject should hop as far forward as he/she can on each hop, but only the total distance hopped is recorded. The arms are allowed to move freely during the testing. Allow him/her to perform 2 practice hops on each leg. Then, have the subject perform 2 testing trial, recording each distance from the starting point to the back of the heel. Average the distanced hopped for each limb. The Limb Symmetry Index: Involved limb distance/Uninvolved limb distance X 100%.
- 4) Timed 6-meter hop: The subject lines their heel up at the zero mark of the tape measure and hops, on cue with the tester, as fast as they can the length of the 6-meter tape. The arms are allowed to move freely during the testing. Allow him/her to perform 2 practice hops on each leg. Then, have the subject perform 2 testing trial, recording each distance from the starting point to the back of the heel. Average the distanced hopped for each limb. The Limb Symmetry Index: Involved limb time/Uninvolved limb time X 100%.



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Updated: April 2020

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