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Post-Operative Protocol- Total Shoulder Arthroplasty

Patient Name: _____ Date: _____

Diagnosis: _____ Date of Surgery: _____

____ Provide patient with home exercise program

0-6 Weeks:

- Home Program given post-op (pendulums, elbow ROM, wrist ROM, grip strengthening)
- Sling for 6 weeks
- PROM → AAROM → AROM as tolerated, except . . .
- No active IR/backwards extension for 6 weeks. The subscapularis tendon is taken down for the surgery and then repaired afterwards. It takes about 4-6 weeks for it to grown back into the humerus and regenerate a blood and nerve supply.
- ROM goals: Week 1: 90° FF/20° ER at side; ABD max 75° without rotation
- ROM goals: Week 2: 120° FF/40° ER at side; ABD max 75° without rotation
- No resisted internal rotation/backward extension until 12 weeks post-op
- Grip strengthening OK
- Canes/pulleys OK if advancing from PROM
- Heat before PT, ice after PT

6-12 Weeks:

- Begin AAROM → AROM for internal rotation and backwards extension as tolerated, if not already begun.
- Goals: Increase ROM as tolerated with gentle passive stretching at end ranges
- Begin light resisted ER/FF/ABD: isometrics and bands, concentric motions only
- No resisted internal rotation/backwards extension until 12 weeks post-op
- No scapular retractions with bands yet

3-12 Months:

- Begin resisted IR/BE (isometrics/bands): isometrics → light bands → weights
- Advance strengthening as tolerated; 10 reps/1 set per exercise for rotator cuff, deltoid, and scapular stabilizers.
- Increase ROM to full with passive stretching at end ranges
- Begin eccentric motions, plyometric, and closed chain exercises at 12 weeks.

____ Other:

Modalities: _____ Electric Stimulation _____ Ultrasound _____ Heat before/Ice after

Frequency: _____ x/ week x _____ weeks

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