



Mayo Clinic

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Proximal Hamstring Repair Protocol

Phase	Goals	Precautions/Restrictions	Treatment
Weeks 0-3	 Decrease pain and inflammation Minimize muscle atrophy Protect healing repair 	 Gait: Non weight bearing Brace locked in 90° knee flexion, 24/7, except for hygiene No hamstring stretching or tension on graft, comfortable range only No position of maximum tension: hip flexion + knee extension 	 PRICE principles Isometrics: quadriceps, hip abduction, hip adduction, abdominals Passive range of motion: Hip Knee (full flexion to 90 deg) Active range of motion: hip abduction, hip flexion, hip adduction, ankle Upper extremity exercise as long as no stress to repair
Weeks 3-6	 Protect healing repair Normalize gait mechanics Return to normal movements of daily living 	 Gait: Progressive weight bearing as tolerated Discontinue brace at 4-6wks No hamstring stretching No isolated hamstring strengthening 	 Progress to independent ambulation with normal gait mechanics Begin unresisted active knee flexion Begin straight leg raise (comfortable range) Begin hamstring isometrics Initiate closed kinetic chain exercises with squatting pattern Initiate single leg proprioception Initiate stationary bike (as ROM allows, may need high seat), aquatics as indicated
Weeks 6-12	 Symmetric ROM Progress muscle strength, endurance, power Return to vocational activities 	No hamstring stretching	 Progress lower extremity and core strengthening Initiate bridging progression Initiate isolated hamstring strengthening* Initiate elliptical at 8 weeks
Weeks 12+	 Return to jog >90% hamstring and hip extension strength symmetry; prefer concentric and eccentric isokinetic testing Single leg hop testing >90% limb symmetry (if returning to level I sport) Progressive return to sport 	 Anticipated return to sport between 16-24 weeks 	 Initiate hamstring stretching, if needed Initiate walk/jog progression Progress plyometrics and agility as appropriate Isokinetic hamstring strength testing

This protocol is not meant to be prescriptive but a recommendation to guide the rehabilitation process.

Each patient's progress may vary based on specifics of their injury and procedure

The following pages provide supplemental direction if needed











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PHASE I (1-6 weeks post-op)

** Patient will perform HEP including DVT prevention and isometric exercises to allow time for optimal healing

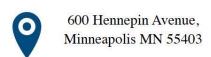
Rehabilitation Goals

- Protection of the repaired tendon(s) Pain control
- Weight Bearing
- Use axillary crutches for up to 4-6 weeks
- Post-operative weeks 0-2: Touch down weight bearing
- Brace: hinged knee brace locked at 90 degrees at all times until week 4-6 (based on physician order)

Precautions

Avoid hip flexion coupled with knee extension (hamstring stretch) - **AVOID** Avoid unsafe surfaces and environments

- Ouad sets
- Ankle pumps
- Abdominal isometrics
- Passive knee range of motion (ROM) with no hip flexion during knee extension
- Scar mobilizations
- Cardiovascular Exercise: Upper body circuit training or upper body ergometer (UBE)
- Progression Criteria: 6 weeks post-operative





PHASE II (begin after meeting Phase I criteria, usually 6 weeks after surgery) Appointments: 2x/week for 5-12 weeks

Rehabilitation Goals

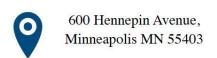
- Post-operative weeks 4-6: Unlock hinged knee brace to 30 degrees flexion for several days, then 0 degrees flexion/extension. Progress weight bearing as tolerated with weaning from crutches
- Normalize gait
- Good control and no pain with functional movements, including step up/down, squat, partial lunge (do not exceed 60° of knee flexion)

Precautions

Avoid dynamic stretching Avoid loading the hip at deep flexion angles No impact or running

- Non-impact balance and proprioceptive drills beginning with double leg and gradually progressing to single leg
- Stationary bike
- Gait training
- Begin hamstring strengthening start by avoidance of lengthened hamstring position (hip flexion combined with knee extension) by working hip extension and knee flexion moments separately; begin with isometric and concentric strengthening with hamstring sets, heel slides, double leg bridge, standing leg extensions, and physioball curls
- Hip and core strengthening
- Cardiovascular Exercise: Upper body circuit training or UBE
- Progression Criteria
- Normal gait on all surfaces
- Ability to carry out functional movements without unloading the affected leg or pain while demonstrating good control
- Single leg balance greater than 15 seconds
- Normal (5/5) hamstring strength in prone with the knee in a position of at least 90° knee flexion







PHASE III (begin after meeting phase II criteria, usually three months after surgery) Appointments 2x/week for 12-16 weeks

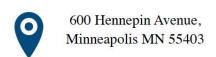
Rehabilitation Goals

Good control and no pain with sport and work specific movements, including impact

Precautions

No pain during strength training Post-activity soreness should resolve within 24 hours

- Continue hamstring strengthening progress toward strengthening in lengthened hamstring positions; begin to incorporate eccentric strengthening with single leg forward leans, single leg bridge lowering, prone foot catches, and assisted Nordic curls
- Hip and core strengthening
- Impact control exercises beginning 2 feet to 2 feet, progressing from 1 foot to the other and then 1 foot to same foot
- Movement control exercise beginning with low velocity, single plane activities and progressing to higher velocity, multi-plane activities
- Initiate running drills, but no sprinting until Phase IV
- Cardiovascular Exercise: Biking, elliptical machine, Stairmaster, swimming, and deep water running
- Progression Criteria
- Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities at low to medium velocity without pain or swelling
- Less than 25% deficit for side to side hamstring comparison on Biodex testing at 60° and 240° per second





PHASE IV (begin after meeting phase III criteria, usually 4-5 months after surgery) Appointments: 1-2x/week for 16+ weeks

Rehabilitation Goals

Good control and no pain with sport and work specific movements, including impact

Precautions

No pain during the strength training Post-activity soreness should resolve within 24 hours

- Continue hamstring strengthening progress toward higher velocity strengthening and reaction in lengthened positions, including eccentric strengthening with single leg forward leans with medicine ball, single leg dead lifts with dumbbells, single leg bridge curls on physioball, resisted running foot catches, and Nordic curls
- Running and sprinting mechanics and drills
- Hip and core strengthening
- Impact control exercises beginning 2 feet to 2 feet, progressing from 1 foot to other and then 1 foot to same foot
- Movement control exercise beginning with low velocity, single plane activities and progressing to higher velocity, multi-plane activities
- Sport/work specific balance and proprioceptive drills
- Stretching for patient specific muscle imbalances
- Cardiovascular Exercise: Replicate sport or work specific energy demands
- Return to Sport/Work Criteria
- Dynamic neuromuscular control with multi-plane activities at high velocity without pain or swelling
- Less than 10% deficit for side to side hamstring comparison on Biodex testing at 60° and 240° per second
- Less than 10% deficit on functional testing profile

