



Physical Therapy Total Shoulder Arthroplasty
Post-Operative Therapy Plan

Primary Surgery: Total Shoulder Arthroplasty

Secondary Procedures: _____

Subscapularis closed in _____ degrees of external rotation

Date of Surgery: _____

Surgeon: _____

Additional Considerations/Precautions:

Sling: 6 wks

Pt to wear sling 24 hours/day. Remove for showering/dressing and PT exercises.

Next Follow Up with MD/PA: _____

TOTAL SHOULDER ARTHROPLASTY

Precautions: Neutral extension x 6 wks. When lying supine patient should be instructed to always be able to visualize their elbow.

Avoid IR x 3 wks.

Avoid shoulder AROM x 6 wks.

Avoid excessive stretching into ER. *See subcapularis limits of ER.

Ideally patients should achieve the following milestones before advancing to the next stage.

	Intervention	Milestones
Week 0-6 _____ PROM ONLY x 4 wks	Control pain and inflammation Elbow/wrist/hand AROM Postural education/Scapular retraction exercises At 4 wks begin AAROM (flexion and scaption) as long as PROM is > 90° At 4 wks begin submax rotator cuff isometrics (caution with IR due to subscapularis)	Good pain management, soft tissue healing, maintain integrity of replaced joint Full elbow/wrist/hand ROM PROM goals: (to achieve, not exceed) Flexion and scaption 120° Abd 75° ER (scapular plane) to available ROM IR (scapular plane) 70°
Weeks 7-8 _____	Continue postural and scapular exercises Add manual resistance for scapular exercises Progress shoulder PROM to tolerance Continue isometrics Begin shoulder AROM exercises (supine→standing) for all motions Manual PNF in supine at week 8 Begin assisted horizontal adduction	Full PROM Overhead AROM with good mechanics to 100°
Week 9-11 _____	Progress AROM exercises to include IR with hand behind back as ROM allows (With Caution) Begin PREs – theraband exercises	Overhead AROM with good mechanics to 120° Functional with ADLs below chest level
Week 12+ _____	Transition to home program 3-4x/wk Continue to progress AROM Progress strengthening exercises Initiate closed chain exercises Gradual return to functional activities If progressing to gym program: - Always see back of hand - Chest press to neutral - No overhead with weight	AROM painfree and with good mechanics 4/5 strength for all motions Return to recreational hobbies/sports

- Remember, there is limited stability within this joint. Be cautious with weight bearing through the shoulder/UE, and with any heavy resisted exercise.
- Always use professional discretion. Some patients may progress slower than others. The given timeframes are an approximate guide for progression, achieving the milestones should serve as a better reference for progression to the next phase. Please consult with the physician if any questions or concerns.