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Quadriceps/Patellar Tendon Repair Physical Therapy Protocol

Weeks 0-6

Primary goals: Eliminate swelling; initial ROM

- Touch down weight bearing in brace 2 weeks, then full weight bearing in brace
- Brace:
 - 0-2 weeks: locked in extension
 - 2-6 weeks: 0-30 degrees, advance 15-20 degrees per week to 0-90 by 6 weeks, no active extension
- ROM:
 - 0-2 weeks: locked in extension
 - 2-6 weeks: 0-30 degrees, advance 15-20 per week to 0-90.
- 0-2 weeks: Quad sets, SLR, calf pumps
- 2-6 weeks: Heel slides, 4-way leg lifts with brace locked in extension, gentle patellar mobilizations, weight shifting with brace on

Weeks 6-12

Primary goals: Increase ROM, Normalize Gait

- Advance to full range of motion
- Discontinue brace as quad control returns with ambulation, at 6-8 week mark
- Active ROM
- Prone knee flexion
- Stationary bike
- Closed chain quadriceps control from 0-40 degrees with light squats and leg press, progressing to shallow lunge steps
- Avoid forceful eccentric contractions

Weeks 12-16

Primary goals: Increase strength

- Normalize gait on all surfaces
- Single leg stand with good control for 10 secs
- Good control with squat to 70 deg of knee flexion

- Avoid forceful eccentric contractions
- Non-impact balance and proprioception
- Cardiovascular: Replicate sport/work specific energy demand

Months 4-6

Primary goals: Full painless ROM, advanced strength

- Advance strengthening as tolerated
- Maximize core, gluteal strength, pelvic stability, eccentric hamstrings
- Advance to elliptical, bike, pool as tolerate
- Begin agility and cutting activities when strength adequate

Months 6+

Primary Goals: return to function/sport

- Advance functional activity
- Return to sport specific activity when cleared by MD