

Subacromial Decompression/Rotator Cuff Debridement Rehabilitation Protocol

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Phase I: Early ROM (*0 to 4 weeks*)

- May remove dressing and shower postop day # 3.
- Ice or cold should be used 3-4 times per day after nerve block has worn off.
- Sling is to be worn for comfort only.
- Scapular ROM exercises.
- Initiate shoulder exercise program 3 times per day:
 - AAROM: pulleys, wand and supine gravity assisted ROM.
 - Progress PROM and capsular stretching as tolerated.
 - Immediate elbow, forearm and hand ROM.
 - May start shoulder isometrics as pain improves.

Phase II: Restore Function (*>4 weeks*)

- Progress PROM and capsular stretching as tolerated.
- Equate active and passive ROM.
- Initiate rotator cuff and scapular stabilizer strengthening (Theraband, dumbbells, Hughston's exercises, etc.) Avoid positions of impingement.
- Progress to functional activities as tolerated.