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## **Ankle Fracture Post-op Rehabilitation Protocol**

This protocol provides you with general guidelines for initial stage and progression of rehabilitation according to specified time frames, related tissue tolerance and directional preference of movement. Specific changes in the program will be made by the physician as appropriate for the individual patient.

REMEMBER: It can take up to a year to make a full recovery, and it is not unusual to have intermittent pains and aches during that time!

### **General Guidelines:**

1.  Increase Dorsiflexion - to restore gait
2.  Monitor PAIN and SWELLING
  - If either increase, modify rehab
  - PRICE
  - Ankle Pumps
  - E-stim if Needed

### **Phase I (up to 6 weeks s/p ORIF):**

#### **Goals:**

- PWB involved LE with or without one crutch
  - DF to neutral
  - Control edema
1.  At 2-4 weeks s/p, initiate weight-bearing as tolerated with crutches
  2.  AROM for ankle, subtalar, midtarsal joints within pain tolerance
    - ankle pumps
    - inversion / eversion
    - toe crunches
    - ankle alphabet
  3.  Towel stretch for DF
  4.  E-stim with elevation for edema

5.  Retrograde massage
6.  Wean to on crutch and PWB as 6 weeks s/p approaches

### **Phase II (6-8 weeks s/p ORIF):**

#### **Goals:**

- FWB involved LE
  - > 50% AROM all planes involved ankle and subtalar joint
  - Control edema
  - Minimize complications
  - Maintain optimal bone and soft tissue healing environment
1.  Gait training level surfaces with proper tibia advancement, quads activation, symmetrical weight-bearing
  2.  Stationary bike
  3.  Grade 1-2 joint mobilizations ankle and subtalar joints
  4.  PROM into restricted ranges
  5.  Retrograde massage for edema
  6.  Continue DF stretches
  7.  Theraband DF/PF/inv/ev in open chain
  8.  Seated heel raise and BAPS
  9.  Manual resistance in open chain for DF/PF/inv/ev and multiplanar motions
  10.  Leg extension
  11.  Leg Curl
  12.  Leg Press
  13.  Wall stretch with knee flexed and extended
  14.  When FWB:
    - Standing BAPS 2 legs
    - Standing heel raise
    - Minisquat
    - One leg balance on floor

### **Phase III (>8 weeks s/p ORIF):**

#### **Goals:**

- Full ankle and subtalar AROM, flexibility
- Restore gait on level surfaces, hills, stairs
- Full return to function

### **Phase III cont. (>8 weeks s/p ORIF):**

1.  CKC theraband exercises (stand on involved leg and perform hip flex/ext/abd/add with uninvolved LE)
2.  BAPS knees bent
  - eyes closed
  - one leg
3.  Storking
  - Eyes open  eyes closed
  - Floor  mat
4.  Standing balance progress floor → mat
  - eyes open  closed
  - level  incline  decline
  - with knee flex/ext
5.  Continue phase 2 ex's
6.  Stairmaster
7.  Agility ex's
  - Karioke
  - Lateral shuffles
  - Tandem Walking
8.  Continue gait training
9.  Continue modalities prn
10.  Sport and Job - specific training