

**Post-Operative Protocol** Total Elbow Arthroplasty Therapy Protocol

Move better. Live better.

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# Days 10-14 days Post-Operatively:

# Splint

- Bulky dressing is removed •
- Apply a light compressive dressing to the forearm and humeral area •
- Sling during the day may remove for exercises.
- Elbow extension splint at night

# **Exercises**

- Begin AROM/PROM for elbow in flexion, supination, and pronation •
- Passive extension ONLY of the elbow to protect triceps repair •

### 2 Weeks Post-Op:

Splint

Continue sling and elbow extension splint

### Wound Care

- Sutures will be removed at 10-14 days post-op, in the office •
- May begin scar massage with Vitamin E oil/lotion at 2.5 weeks post-op
- Edema control, light compressive dressing/stockinette

# **Exercises**

- Continue exercises per guidelines above
- May initiate NMES to facilitate active flexion of elbow by stimulating biceps •
- Initiate hand strengthening with hand exerciser or putty •

#### 6 Weeks Post-Op:

Splint

• Discontinue use of sling and elbow extension splint

# **Exercises**

- Initiate AROM for elbow extension •
- May begin dynamic elbow flexion if patient is not restoring a functional degree of flexion
- Begin strengthening for wrist, forearm, and elbow •
- Initiate interval sports program at week 20, if appropriate •

#### **Expectations:**

- AROM of elbow is usually 15/20 to 130 degrees of flexion, 70 degrees of forearm supination and pronation
- Lifetime lifting restriction of 10 pounds with operative extremity

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