



**Robert C. Grumet, MD**  
**Linda Zaragoza, MMS, PA-C, ATC**

## **Post-Operative Rehabilitation: Patellar Tendon Repair**

### **Phase 1 Physical Therapy (0-6 weeks)**

- Brace locked in extension for ambulation x 4 weeks, then unlocked by physician
- Progress ROM at week 2
  - Begin 0-30 degrees; progress 5-10 degrees every 3 days
- NO open-chain exercises
- Soft tissue mobilization, patellar mobilization, isometric exercises, core strengthening
- Tactile and verbal cueing to enable non-compensatory gait patterning
- HEP: leg bridge for extension, heel slides for flexion, ankle pumps
- Isometric exercises for core, glutes, quadriceps, hamstrings

### **Phase 2 Physical Therapy (6-12 weeks)**

- Continue ROM progression
- Initiate closed-chain strengthening and planks advancing as tolerated
- Proprioceptive training
- Standing weight shifts, backward/lateral walking without resistance
- Soft tissue mobilization, patellar mobilization, isometric exercises, core strengthening
- Initiate step-up and step-down programs
- NO resistance exercises

### **Phase 3 Physical Therapy (12-24 weeks)**

- Focus on functional exercises in all planes, advance only when fully controlled
- Advance closed-chain and core strengthening
- Proprioceptive training
- May begin straight treadmill jogging once able to perform single leg squat appropriately (will be cleared per physician)

### **Phase 4 Physical Therapy (24+ weeks)**

- Advance closed-chain and core strengthening as needed
- Continue proprioceptive training
- Progress sport-specific drills and plyometrics (per physician)