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Shoulder Dislocation Nonoperative Protocol

First Time Dislocators: May be immobilized for 2-4 weeks before starting physical therapy.

Recurrent Dislocators: Physical therapy can begin immediately

Phase I: 0-4 weeks (typically)

Goals:

Re-establish full motion
Retard muscular atrophy
Decrease pain and inflammation
Allow capsular healing

Exercises:

- AAROM with wand to tolerance
- Begin IR/ER at side, progress to 30 degrees, 60 degrees then 90 degrees AB as pain subsides
- Submax isometrics for all shoulder musculature
- Gentle joint mobs & PROM
- Modalities PRN (ice, IFC-Estim etc . . .) to decrease inflammation and pain

Phase II: 4-8 weeks

Goals:

Increase dynamic stability
Increase strength
Maintain full motion

Exercises:

- Isotonic Strengthening
Rotator Cuff
Scapular Stabilizers
Deltoid, Biceps, Triceps
- Rhythmic Stabilization
 - Basic
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced

Phase III: 8-12

Goals:

Increase neuromuscular control (especially in apprehension)

position)

Progress dynamic stability

Increase overall strength

Exercises:

- Continue to progress previous isotonic exercises
- Begin dynamic stabilization: Basic → Intermediate → Advanced
- Introduce basic plyometrics
- *In Athletes begin to work ER/IR in 90 degrees AB

Phase IV: Return to Activity 3 months plus

Goals:

Progressively increase activities to patient for full functional return

Exercises:

- Continue previous isotonic strengthening program
- Advance plyometrics
- Instruct in maintenance program prior to discharge