

Northwestern Medicine Orthopaedics

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Patellar Tendon Repair

General

Weight-bearing as tolerated in brace

Brace locked in extension for 6 weeks

Stitches assessed and removed in clinic within 7-14 days

Weeks 0-6

No rehab

Brace or splint in full extension

Weeks 6-8

Passive full extension

Active flexion to 45 degrees in brace

Prone hangs

Ankle pumps

Achilles and calf stretching

Modalities as necessary to decrease swelling

Weeks 8-10

Continue previous exercises

Active flexion from 45-90 degrees in brace

Weeks 10-12

Zero resistance straight leg raises

Patellar mobilization

Discontinue brace

Weeks 12-16

Begin gradual quadriceps strengthening

Week 16-20

Single knee bends

Leg curls with no hyperextension

Week 20

Return to run program = elliptical \rightarrow treadmill \rightarrow outdoor running

Week 24

Sport-specific training with gradual return to agility exercises