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## KNEE AND LEG EXERCISE PROGRAM

These exercises are specifically designed to rehabilitate the muscles of the hip and knee by increasing the strength and flexibility of the involved leg. This exercise program must be performed on a regular basis to regain and improve lost muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility; thus a consistent effort on your part is required to obtain the maximum benefit from the exercise program outlined.

When correctly performed all of these exercises may be accomplished without difficulty. You may notice some muscular fatigue and soreness for the initiation of the exercise program, but this should be distinguished from pain. In addition, there should not be any increase in pain or swelling. These signs may indicate too much activity too fast, and necessitate that you consult with your doctor, athletic trainer, or physical therapist

- 1. PATELLAR MOBILIZATION: With leg straight and thigh muscles relaxed, place a finger of each hand on either side of patella (kneecap) and gently move the kneecap up and down for 1-2 minutes. Perform 4-5 times daily.
- 2. **PASSIVE KNEE FLEXION:** Seated, use the uninvolved leg to move the involved leg through the range of motion.

To bend the knee: place the ankle of the uninvolved leg over the shin of your involved leg and push back as far as possible. Hold 10 seconds. Relax for 10 seconds. Repeat \_\_\_\_\_ times.

RANGE OF MOTION EXERCISES:

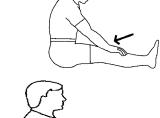
To straighten: hook the foot of the uninvolved leg behind the involved leg's ankle and guide you involved knee straight without contracting your quadriceps.

Begin with \_\_\_\_\_ min., progressing to \_\_\_\_\_ min.

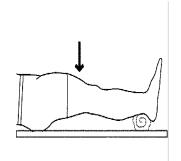
Perform 4-5 times daily.

## 3. PASSIVE KNEE EXTENSION TO ZERO:

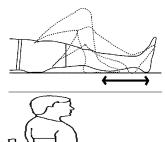
- A. Straighten leg by sliding heel downward with your involved foot. Use hands to put pressure on leg above patella, try to make the knee as straight as possible. Hold 10 seconds. Perform \_\_\_\_ min., daily.
- B. Place towel roll under heel, and allow involved leg to straighten with the assistance of gravity, and gentle pressure from your hands. Hold \_\_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Perform \_\_\_\_ min., \_\_\_\_ times daily.
- C. Place a \_\_\_\_\_ pound weight on the thigh above the knee. Perform \_\_\_\_ min., \_\_\_\_ times daily.







4.	HEEL SLIDE	E: Bend yo	ur knee as fa	ar as possib	le using the
	hamstrings	. Grasp th	e lower leg v	with both h	nands and
	gently pull	heel towa	rd buttocks.	Hold	_ seconds.
	Relax. Per	form	_ min.,	times dail	у.

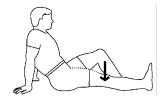


5. ACTIVE ASSISTED KNEE FLEXION: Sit in a chair with involved foot flat on floor. Slide foot back as far as possible using hamstring muscles. Keep foot stationary, slide hips forward over your foot. Hold \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Relax \_\_\_\_ seconds. Perform \_\_\_\_ min. \_\_\_ times daily.

6. KNEE FLEXION PULLEY: Seated, with pulley secured to back of chair, slide the involved foot back as far as possible. Grasp handle of pulley rope and pull gently to bend knee further back. Hold \_\_\_\_\_ seconds. Relax \_\_\_\_ seconds. Perform \_\_\_\_\_ min., \_\_\_\_ times daily.

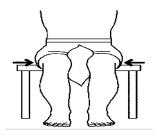
## **ISOMETRICS**

1. QUAD SETS: With leg as straight as possible and heel resting on a firm surface (floor or table), tighten the front thigh muscles (quads), trying to pull the patella toward you. Hold for 5 seconds contracting your muscles as tight as possible. Completely relax the thigh and rest 3 seconds. Repeat 50 times. This exercise should be performed throughout the day and may be performed standing, sitting, or lying down.



2. MULTI-ANGLE ISOMETRICS: Seated, place your foot against the wall with your knee bent to 90 degrees. Gently push into the walls as if to kick out. Hold 10 seconds, relax 4 seconds. Repeat exercise a 90, 60 and 30 degrees of knee flexion. Perform \_\_\_\_\_ sets, \_\_\_\_ repetitions, \_\_\_\_\_ times daily.

3. **HIP ADDUCTION:** Place a rolled towel, pillow, or small rubber kickball between thighs. Squeeze legs together tightly, holding 10 seconds. Relax, resting 4 seconds. Perform \_\_\_\_\_ sets, \_\_\_\_ repetitions, \_\_\_\_ times daily.



4.	CO-CONTRACTIONS: While sitting with the involved knee slightly bent, tighten both the front (quads) and back (hams) thigh muscles at the same time "digging" the heel of your foot downward. Contract your muscles as tight as possible, holding for 10 second. Relax, resting 4 seconds. Perform sets, repetitions, times daily. Co-contractions may be modified by performing each set with the knee bent at different angles, as described in multiangle isometrics.	
1.	STRAIGHT LEG RAISE (SLR): Lying on your back with involved knee bent 90 degrees tighten the quadriceps as in a quad set. Keeping your leg straight, lift your heel until the thigh reaches the approximate level of the uninvolved thigh. Hold for 6 seconds and slowly lower leg down.  Completely relax the thigh and rest 4 seconds. Perform  sets, reps, times daily. Begin with  lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	ST 1
2.	ADDUCTED SLR: Lying on involved side either: a) bend the good leg up so its foot is in front of the involved leg, or b) place the uninvolved leg on the seat of a chair. Lift the involved leg upwards approximately 6 inches. Hold for 6 seconds. Relax 4 seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs.: gradually	1
3.	increasing to lbs.  ABDUCTED SLR: Lying on uninvolved side, lift the involved leg towards the ceiling without rotating the leg outwards. Hold 6 seconds relax 4 seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	
4.	PRONE SLR: Lie on your stomach with folded towel under the thigh just above the knee, perform a quad set and keep the leg straight while lifting the leg approximately 6 inches backwards from the hip. Hold 6 seconds, relax 4 seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily.	
5.	Begin withlbs, gradually increasing to lbs.  90-45 DEGREE KNEE EXTENSION: While seated, slowly extend the involved leg out to a 45 degree angle. Hold 6 seconds. Slowly lower to starting position. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin withlbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	
6.	KNEE EXTENSION (FULL): While seated, slowly extend the involved leg until straight. Hold 6 seconds. Slowly lower to starting position. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	

**ISOTONICS** 

7.	HAMSTRING CURLS:  A. Prone: Lie on your stomach with a folded towel under the thigh just above the knee. Bend the knee slowly bringing your heel toward your buttocks. Hold 6 seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin withlbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	
8.	B. Standing: standing straight with thigh resting against table or wall, slowly raise heel up toward buttocks. Hold 6 seconds. Slowly lower to starting position. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs. HIP FLEXION: Seated, slowly lift your bent knee toward your chest Hold 6 seconds Slowly lower to starting position Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	
9.	STATIC WEIGHT LOADING: Sitting on edge of a chair with involved leg straight and foot resting on floor. Tighten the quadriceps as in a quad set. Keeping leg straight, raise leg until parallel with floor. Hold for 6 seconds. Slowly lower to floor. Rest 4 seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	
10	LEG PRESS: In a lying or seated position, with your feet flat on the footrest of the machine, slowly extend your knee from degrees. Hold 3 seconds. Slowly return to resting position. Perform sets, reps, times daily. Begin with lbs., gradually increasing to lbs.	

11. RESISTED PLANTAR FLEXION: With leg as straight as

the ends of the towel with both hands. Push foot downward, providing resistance with the towel. Pause and pull foot back as far as possible, stretching the

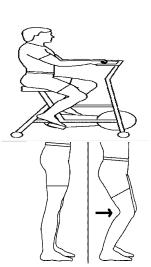
daily.

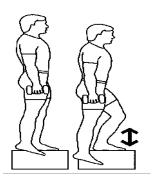
possible, loop a towel around the ball of the foot, holding

Achilles tendon. Perform \_\_\_\_ sets, \_\_\_\_ reps, \_\_\_\_ times

	<b>HEEL RAISES:</b> Stand with feet straight using a wall or table for balance. Push up onto toes lifting heels off floor. Hold for 6 seconds. Slowly lower. Relax two seconds. Perform sets, reps, times daily.
1.	1. STATIONARY CYCLING: Adjust seat height so that involved leg is almost straight when the ball of foot is on the lowest pedal. Tension set to allow minimum to moderate resistance. Begin cycling min., progressing to min. as tolerated.
2.	MINI SQUATS: Stand with feet shoulder width apart and slightly rotated outward. Bend knees to 30 degrees. Hold 3 seconds. Slowly straighten to 15 degrees. Repeat min., progressing to, times daily.
3.	<ul> <li>A. With Elastic Tubing: Perform as above while standing on tubing and providing resistance by holding tubing at waist level. Repeat min., progressing to, times daily.</li> <li>STEP UPS: Stand sideways with the involved leg toward a step. Place the involved foot up on the step. Lift the body weight with the involved leg and let yourself down, slowly and deliberately. You should land on the uninvolved heel and lift off the uninvolved heel. Begin with inch step progressing to inch step as tolerated. Begin with 1</li> </ul>
	min., times daily.  A. With Elastic Tubing: Performs as above while injured leg stands on tubing and providing resistance by holding tubing as high as possible. Begin with inch step progressing to inch step as tolerated. Begin with 1 min., times daily.
4.	POOL WALKING/ RUNNING:  A. Walking: in chest high water begin walking widths forward and backward for min., progressing to mins times daily.
	B. Running: In chest high water with normal running form run widths forward and backward for min., progressing to mins times daily.

CLOSED CHAIN EXERCISES





5.	WALKING: At a normal pace begin walking on a level surface for min. progressing to mins times daily. All activity should be performed without pain, limp, or swelling.
6.	RUNNING PROGRAM:  A. Jogging: Begin on flat surface with distance gradually progressing to distance as tolerated.  Activity should be performed without pain, limp, or swelling.  B. Sprints: Begin with yard sprint, at speed,
	for repetitions, progressing to yards, at speed, for repetitions.  C. Figure 8's: Begin with yard pattern, at speed, performing sets of repetitions.  Progress to speed, sets of repetitions as tolerated.
1.	HAMSTRING STRETCH: Straighten supported leg with the opposite leg off the side of a table or bed. Slowly lean forward bending only at the hip joint until you feel a stretch in the back muscles of your thigh (hamstring). Hold for 10 seconds, repeating times, times daily with each leg. Perform stretch with chin up, back straight, and
2.	without bouncing.  QUADRICEPS STRETCH: Holding on with one arm for balance, grasp foot of the injured leg with your hand and bring heel to buttocks. While standing up straight slowly extend your leg backwards, maintaining hold of your foot. Hold 10 seconds. Repeat repetitions, times daily with each leg.
3.	ACHILLES STRETCH:  A. Stand and lean into a wall with your weight on your heel and back knee straight. Keep feet pointed straight ahead. Slowly lean forward until you feel a stretch in the back of your calf (gastrocnemius). Hold 10 seconds. Repeat times, times daily with each leg.
	B. Stand and lean into a wall with your weight on your heels and knees slightly bent. Slowly lean forward until you feel a stretch in the back of your calf (soleus). Hold 10 seconds. Repeat

**FLEXIBILITY** 

<u>ICE</u>	<ol> <li>Apply ice to the front and back of the injured area for mins., times daily including:</li> </ol>			
	before rehabilitation	after rehabilitation	end of day	