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Big Toe Joint (1st MTPJ) Replacement Post Operative Rehabilitation Protocol

Operative Summary

A hemi-arthroplasty (half joint) replacement, resurfaces the proximal phalanx. A cheilectomy (removing the dorsal bump of bone) is also performed.

Day of Operation (week 1)

Rigid post-operative sandal - mobilise full weight bearing (with 2 crutches only if needed)

Home the same day

Strict elevation

Move toes, ankle, knee and hip

Weeks 1 – 2 Post Operatively

Strict elevation at the level of the chest, for 23 hours a day for 14 days (for pain relief and wound healing)

Ice for 10 minutes every hour, on top of bandage

Move toes, ankle, knee and hip

Straight leg raises

Week 3 Post Operatively (after 2 weeks completed)

Clinic review by Mr Gordon - wound inspection, removal of sutures

Into a normal shoe (will need to be wide and soft)

Commence exercises

Week 3-4 Post Operatively - Exercises – 3 times/day

1. Seated heel raises x 20: Sit with foot flat on floor, knees bent 90° keeping toes on floor, raise heel to the limit of pain and return
2. Toe lifts x 20: Sit with foot flat on floor, raise toe as far as possible to ceiling and return
3. Toe bends x 20: Sit with toes resting over the edge of a phone book, bend toes towards the floor
4. Toe pulls x 20: Pull toe up with hand to pain and hold for 3 seconds, relax
5. Toe pushes x 20: Push toe down with hand to pain and hold for 3 seconds, relax

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Week 5-6 Post Operatively - Exercises – 3 times/day

6. Standing both heel raises x 20: Stand close to a wall for balance, raise heels to the limit of toe pain and hold for 3 seconds
7. Standing single heel raises x 20: Stand close to a wall for balance, stand on one leg, raise heel to the limit of toe pain and hold for 3 seconds
8. Continue exercise 3, 4 and 5

Week 7-8 Post Operatively - Exercises – 2 times/day

9. Toe flexor stretch in standing. Roll up a towel and place it in front of a step. Place your toes of the operated foot on the towel and the ball of your foot on the floor, so that your toes are bent upwards. Bend the knee forwards over the edge of the step. Hold 1 minute
10. Walking training. Ensure your weight is moving through the big toe at push-off. Practice rolling backwards and forwards in this position
11. Balance retraining. Practice balancing on 1 foot on a balance board or a pillow/cushion for 2 min
12. Walk at a moderate pace on the flat for 10 minutes. Gradually increase time to 20 minutes then introduce hills or stairs. Note: a graduated return to normal activities and sport is recommended. Start slowly and add only 1 new activity per week. If you have done too much, you may not feel it until the next day



Post Operative X ray of the BioPro Great Toe Hemiarthroplasty

References

Giza, et al. First Metatarsophalangeal Hemiarthroplasty for Grade III and IV Hallux Rigidus. Techniques in Foot and Ankle Surgery 4(1):10–17, 2005