



Meagan McCarthy, M.D.

Removal of External Fixator

Goals:

- Wear TROM brace unlocked 0-110 degrees at all times x 6 weeks
- Reduce pain/swelling (ice 3x's daily for 15-20 minutes directly on knee)
- Full knee ROM as soon as possible
- Full weight bearing as tolerated in the brace
- Normal gait (walking) with out crutches/cane

0-2 weeks post op

- Modalities as needed
- Stationary bike with high seat if needed and lower it to normal height when able
- Quad sets/SLR
- Chair Squats/Wall squats - keep tibia perpendicular to floor
- Open/Closed chain ex's (leg extensions, leg curls, leg press etc)
- Step Ups - start with comfortable height and progress to normal step height as able

3 weeks post op

- Cont. as above
- Stairmaster, Versa climber, general cardio. Equipment
- Exercise affected leg only to develop symmetrical LE strength

6 weeks post op

- Cont. as above
- Discontinue brace
- Plan for next stage surgery if indicated