

The Orthopedic Center of St. Louis

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Elbow Dislocation

Time Frame	Goals	Exercises
Weeks 1-4	Control edema and pain Early full ROM	Continue to assess for neurovascular compromiseElevation and ice
HEP daily	Protect injured tissues Minimize deconditioning	 Gentle PROM - working to get full extension Splinting/bracing as needed General cardiovascular and muscular conditioning program Strengthen through ROM Soft tissue mobilization if indicated – especially assess the brachialis myofascia
Weeks 5-8	Control any residual symptoms of edema	Active range of motion (AROM) exercises, isometric exercises, progressing to resisted exercises using tubing or manual
PT 2-3x/week	and pain Full ROMMinimize	resistance or weightsIncorporate sport specific exercises if indicated
HEP daily	deconditioning	 Joint mobilization, soft tissue mobilization, or passive stretching if indicated Continue to assess for neurovascular compromise Nerve mobility exercises if indicated Modify/progress cardiovascular and muscular conditioning
Weeks 9-16	Full range of motion and normal strength	 Interventions as above Modify/progress cardiovascular and muscular conditioning
PT 2-3x/week	Return to pre-injury functional activities	Progress sport specific or job specific training
HEP daily		