ACL RECONSTRUCTION WITH MCL REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCTION REHABILITATION PROTOCOL

	WEIGHT BEARING	BRACE	ROM	EXERCISES
PHASE I 0-2 weeks	Heel touch weightbearing with crutches	Locked in full extension for sleeping and all activity* Off for exercises and hygiene	0-90° when non-weight bearing	Heel slides, quad sets, patellar mobs, SLR, SAQ **Avoid valgus stress for 8 wks to protect MCL**
PHASE II 2-8 weeks	**2-6 weeks:** Heel touch WB with crutches **6-8 weeks**: Progress to full WB	**2-8 weeks:** Locked 0-90° Off at night Discontinue brace by 8 weeks when comfortable WB	As tolerated, caution to avoid valgus stress	**2-6wks:** Add side-lying/floor based quad/hamstring/hip and core, advance quad set and stretching **6-8wks:** Addition of heel raises, closed chain lower body, gait normalization, eccentric quads/hamstrings; advance core, glutes and pelvic stability Activities w/ brace until 6 weeks; then w/o brace as tolerated **Avoid valgus stress to protect the MCL**
PHASE III 8-12 weeks	Full	None	Full	Progress closed chain activities Begin hamstring work, lunges/leg press 0-90°, proprioception exercises, balance/core/hip/glutes
PHASE IV 12-16 weeks	Full	None	Full	Progress Phase III exercises and functional activities: single leg balance, core, glutes, and eccentric hamstrings Begin stationary bike at 12 wks with low resistance Swimming okay at 12 wks
PHASE V 16-24 weeks	Full	None	Full	Start elliptical and running straight ahead after 16 weeks, jumping after 18 weeks >20wks**:** Advance to sprinting, backward running, cutting/pivoting/changing direction, initiate plyometric program and sport-specific drills FSA completed after 22 weeks highly recommended
PHASE V >6 months	Full	None	Full	Gradual return to sports participation after completion of FSA and clearance by MD

*Brace may be removed at night after first post-operative visit (day 7-14) if directed
*Same protocol applies for all graft choices

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