Proprioception & Neuromuscular Control Drills for the ACL Patient Kevin E. Wilk, PT, DPT, FAPTA























ACL Injuries

- Over 200,000 ACL injuries annually
- 62-66% sports related, usually non-contact – 70%
- Over 60% in males
- 67% occurs in individuals 15-29 yrs of age
- 26% occurs in 30-44 yrs
- 7% occurs in individuals above 45 yrs of age









Brophy, Gill, Lyman, et al: AJSM '09

- Effect of ACL Reconstruction &/or Meniscectomy on length of career in NFL
- 54 athletes with meniscectomy alone
- 29 ACL reconstruction
- 11 both ACL recon & partial meniscectomy
- History of an isolated meniscectomy not isolated ACL reconstruction shortens career
- Combination (ACL & Meniscus) was most detrimental (~2yrs)

Carey et al: AJSM '06

- Effects of ACL injury on running backs & wide receivers in the NFL players (N=33)
- ✓ 80% returned to NFL play
- ✓ Performance of those returning – performance was reduced by 1/3

ACL Injuries Return to Play

✓ 78% of NBA players returned to play following ACL surgery

 Of the players returning: 44% experienced a decrease in in standard statistical categories & player efficiency ratings

Busfield et al: Arthroscopy '09















Shah, Andrews, Fleisig: AJSM '10

- 49 NFL players underwent ACL/PTG
- \checkmark 63% returned to NFL play (31/49)
- ✓ Average length of time to return 10.8 mos
- Age, position & number of procedures not a factor in return rate
- Players who had more than 4 yrs of experience higher rate of return
- Players drafted in first 4 rounds higher rate of return to play

Return to Sports

After ACL Reconstruction:

 Systematic review of 48 studies reporting return to sports of 5770 individuals after ACL reconstruction at mean follow-up of 41.5 months









Return to Preinjury Sports Participation Following ACLR

Why Didn't They Return to Sports (n=42)

- Kinesiophobia* more present in low level athletes elite athletes
 Instability*
- ✓ 31 patients responded they had instability (68%)
- Quad PT/BW ratio*
- 🖌 important test parameter
- 🖌 quads are shock absorbers
- ✓ Wilk et al: JOSPT '94 correlation b/w QPT/BW
- ✓ IKDC scores (15 pts difference)*
- ✓ Knee effusion (present in 9 pts)* 21%
- ✓ Pain scale difference*
- ✓ Tegner scale differences











Fitzgerald, Axe, Snyder-Mackler: Phys Ther : '00

- Perturbation training ACL deficient knee patients (athletes)
- 26 patients isolated ACL rupture
- Randomly assigned to group:
- » A standardized program» Standardized program & pertubation

training	
Results: 91%	pertubation group
return to play	(6 months)

standardized group return to play (6 months)

Activity	Standard Group	Perturbation Group
Collegiate football	1	2
Semiprofessional football		1
ollegiate lacrosse	1	
Collegiste field hockey		1
Collegiate track/soccer		
High school basketball		
high school softwall		1
High school held hockey	1	
emprofessional baseball		1
Senior Olympic valleyball		
Boskefool	6°	
Hockey	1	1
Tennis	1.	1
Soffool	1.	2
folleyboll		1

Perturbation Training to Enhance NM Control



Perturbation Training to Enhance NM Control

Linking Arms & Lower Extremity

















Frobell et al: NEJM '10

- Randomized trial of treatment for acute ACL tears
- 121 young adults, acute ACL injury
- Randomized into 2 groups:
 - » Structured rehab & early ACL reconstruction (n=62)» Structured rehab & with option of delayed rehab (59)
- Of the 59 in delayed surgery, 23 underwent surgery & 36 Rx with rehabilitation no surgery
- Primary outcome: baseline to 2 yrs post-injury
- Conclusion: "a strategy of rehab plus early reconstruction was not superior to delayed surgery





Paterno, Rauh, et al: AJSM '14

- ACL reinjury rate following ACLR
- 78 subjects underwent ACLR return to sports
- ✓ 15x greater 2nd ACL in subjects with ACLR if they return to sports during the first year
- ✓ 6x greater 2nd ACL injury in subjects returning to sports within 12-24 mos
- ✓ Females ACLR 4x greater rate of injury 24 mos.
- ✓ 2x more likely to tear opposite knee ACL
- ✓ 30% athletes sustained 2nd ACL inj 21% on contralateral side 9% opposite side

Grindem, Snyder-Mackler, Engebretsen, et al: BJSM '16

- Can we reduce reinjury rates in ACLR pts
- Delaware-Oslo ACL Cohort Study
- 106 patients ACLR 2yr FU
- ✓ 30% pts returning Level I sustained reinjury, 8% returning to a lower level (4x higher reinj rate)
- Every month delayed returned to sports until 9mos – rate of reinjury was reduced 51%
- More symmetrical quadriceps strength prior to return to sports sign. Reduced reinjury rate

Reduce Re-Injury Rate by 84%

Strict Criteria to Return to Sports

Simple decision rules can reduce reinjury risk by 84% after ACL reconstruction: the Delaware-Oslo ACL cohort study Hege Grindem,¹ Lyns Syder Mackler,² Havard Moksnes,¹ Lars Engebreteen,^{3,4} May Arna Raberg.¹⁴

ASTRACT ACT with respiration of the six of construction is common and reveaus the six of construction. There is the six of the six of construction and the six of the six of the six of the six of construction and the six of the six o

sports participated in this prospective 2-year cohort much. Sports participation and knee tell-up were recorded monthly. Knee function was aversared with the foree Outcome Survey—Activities of Daily Living Scale, which arens scale of function, and muchimes thereoff



Failla, Logerstedt, Grindem et al: AJSM '16

- Does extended Pre-Op Rehab Influence Outcomes 2 years after ACLR
- MOON & Delaware-Oslo ACL Cohorts
- 150 patients in each group
- · Criteria based when reconstruction is performed
- ✓ DOC group: strength training, ROM & NM drills
- ✓ The DOC group had significantly higher Return To Sports rate at 2 yrs
- ✓ 12-15% higher scores (IKDC, KOOS)
- **DOC** pre-op average



















How Do You Know When Your ACL Patient is Ready to Run? Return to Sports?











Post-Op ACL Reconstruction *Where did the 80% of opposite side come from ?*

Netter: Knee Surg Spts Traumatol Arthrosc '06 ✓ Test battery Q?H strength & power (conc & ecc) ✓ ≥90%

Van Grinsven: Knee Surg Spts Traum Arth '10

✓ 85% or better in ACL patients

Barber-Westin, Noyes: Arthroscopy '11

- ✓ strength: <10% deficit
- ✓ Hop test: <15% deficit
- ✓ Vertical landing: >60% knee separation distance









Movements with Poor Stabilization



Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Return to Play Criteria

- ✓ 3 P Program:
- Performance
- ✓ Practice
- 🖌 Play

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Return to Play Criteria

✓ 3 P Program:

- Performance Training:
 - ✓ performance training sport specific drills
 - ✓ plyometrics
 - ✓ agility drills
 - ✓ speed drills
- ✓ sport specific drills (cutting, deceleration, etc)

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Return to Play Criteria

- **3 P Program:**
- Practice situations:
 - ✓ control practice
 - ✓ gradual increase time, intensity, reps
 - ✓ lower intensity to begin gradually increase intensity $50-60\% \longrightarrow 75\% \longrightarrow 80-90\% \longrightarrow 100\%$
 - ✓ return to practice game (game simulation)

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Return to Play Criteria

- **3 P Program:**
- Play:
 - \checkmark return to competition
 - ✓ game situation
 - ✓ 100% effort

2016 Consensus statement on return to sport from the First World Congress in Sports Physical Therapy, Bern Class Ledem. ^{1,3} Philip Glasgoe, ^{4,5} Arthony Schneider,⁶ Etik Whrtow, ^{1,3}

jamin Clarsen,^{8,9} Ann Coob,⁷ Boris Gojanovic,^{19,11} Steffan Griffin,¹² m M Khan,¹³ Hävard Moksnes,⁴⁸ Stephen A Mutch,^{14,15} Nicola Phillips,⁵⁶ taaf Reurink,¹⁷ Robin Sadler,¹⁸ Karin Grävane Silbernapel,¹⁹ Kristian Thorborg,² aug Wangensteen,¹³ Kevin E Wilk,²⁷ Mario Bizzin²⁷

anti see ABSTRACT Deciding subant is retarn to sport after 1 and multificity and the set of the set of the set of the Return is sport decisions are nade were subactive derivation, athletes and craches, ideally 2022, ways, The purpose of this commons stat present and spritteniske current evidence mecommendations for seture to sport de disclat practice and fature meaach de enterning athletes to coard. A half da en RTS compress in here, Switzerland (20-21) in Normalize 2015; The ain of the compress was to present current relation and guidelines in annuwhere sports medicate chinasism. Japarchalery hypertheling and provide the second second second second helping affects in RAS affer imaging or surgery. The productions in RAS affer imaging or surgery relation productions in RAS affer imaging or surgery. The productions in RAS affer imaging or surgery. The productions in RAS affer imaging or surgery. The productions in hydrog afferer RTS.

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

- Clearance for running
- Clearance for agility drills
- Clearance for jumping
- Clearance for hoping & cutting
- Proceed to the return to sport

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

- Clearance for Running:
- ✓ 30 Step & holds
- ✓ 10 single leg squats
- 1 rep max on leg press
- 🖌 15 min of fast treadmill v
- ✓ KT testing
- Isokinetic testing

Y balance testLanding CoG

FMS test

- Gait pattern
- (biomechanical)
- Vertical Jumping

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

- Clearance for Running:
- ✓ 30 Step & holds
- ✓ 30 step & holds w/o loss of balance
- 10 single leg squats
- ✓ 10 consecutive squats to 45 deg
- ✓ 1 rep max on leg press
 ✓ ≥70% 1 RM on leg press
- ✓ 15 min of fast treadmill walking (normal gait)
- ✓ KT testing (specific criteria)
- ✓ Isokinetic testing (specific criteria)









Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

- Clearance for Agility Drills:
- ✓ 1 rep max on leg press
- ✓ 10 single leg squats with weights
- Run 1 mile on treadmill
- ✓ KT testing
- ✓ Isokinetic testing
- ✓ Hop test

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

• Clearance for Agility Drills:

- 1 rep max on leg press
- ✓ \geq 85% of uninvolved side
- ✓ 10 single leg squats with weight to 45 deg
 ✓ ≥75% of uninvolved side
- Run 1 mile on treadmill
- normal gait pattern
- ✓ KT testing (specific criteria)
- ✓ Isokinetic testing (specific criteria)
- ✓ Hop testing (85% > of uninvolved side)

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction <u>Functional Screening Test</u>

- Clearance for Return to Sport:
- ✓ Strength achieves >90%
- ✓ Displays normal running pattern no pain
- Has practiced & displays no hesitation or compensation strategies
- ✓ Practiced full effort no swelling or pain
- ✓ KT test
- ✓ Hop test (90% \ge uninvolved side)

ACL Injury Return to Sports

- Levels of Sports (Based on Loading/Stress)
- I: Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Football, Skiing, Lacrosse
- II: Baseball, Softball, Kickball, Nordic Skiing, Hiking, Bowling
- III: Golf, Running, Biking, Swimming, Walking

	ACL Return	Injury to Sports	
Atl	Current Concepts heletic Activity after William L Healy." From the Department of Orthopaedic I TAB	Joint Replacemen MD, Richard Iono, MD, and Mark J. Les Surgery, Lahey Clinic, Butington, Massa ILB 1	t mos, MD achusetts
Recommended/Allowed	Activity after Total Hip Arthrop Allowed with experience	plasty-1999 Hip Society Survey	No conclusion
Stationary bicycling Croquet Ballroom dancing Golf Horsenboos Shoufileboard Swimming Doubles tennis Walking	Low-impact aerobics Road bicycling Bowling Chilog Horseback riding Cross-country akiing	High-impact nerobics Baseball/softball Basketball Basketball Portunation Handball Hockey Jagging Lacrosse Bacquestball Squash Rock climiting Socor Soc	Jazz dancing Square dancing Pencing Robins Robins Speed walking Downhill sking Stationary sking* Weight infing Weight machines

Post-Op ACL Reconstruction Functional Screening Test

- Clearance to Return to Practice: (additional)
- ✓ vertical drop jump
- ✓ unilateral bridge for time
- 🖌 full prone plank
- ✓ running & cutting (running making 90°)
- running & deceleration (running straight at higher percentage and stop on a dime)













ACL Injuries Dynamic Q Angle

- ✓ Proximal Components
 - ✓ Femoral adduction
 - ✓ Femoral internal rotation
- ✓ Distal Components
 - ✓ Hyperpronation
 - ✓ Tibial internal rotation









ACL Injuries • Not an isolated injury Injury affects both extremities \checkmark For at least 3.6 mos Wilk, et al: CSM '03 ✓ Alters firing mechanism OVERALL Wojtys, Huston: AJSM '94 scular Performance ristics in Elite Female Athle





ACL Injuries

- Not an isolated injury
 - ✓ Injury affects both extremities
 - Quadriceps weakness & activation failure following ACL injury &/or reconstruction bilaterally Hart et al: J Athletic Trn '10 Chmielewski: J Orthop Res '04 Farquhar: Muscle Nerve '05 Holder-Powell:Eur J Appl Physiol 01



ACL Injuries

• Deficits in Balance & **Proprioception is Long Term**

✓ Posture & balance deficits can be present up to 2-3 yrs Clark: J Biomech '14 (6-18 mos) Howells: Knee Surg Spts Trau '11 (systematic review 10 studies – impaired posture at 29 mos



ACL Injuries

Not an isolated injury

- Bone bruises present 71-100% patients
- Potter et al: AJSM '12 Spindler: AJSM '93 Rosen: Arthroscopy '91 Graf: AJSM '93
- Johnson: AJSM '98 <u>65% exhibited marrow changes &</u> cartilage thinning 6 yrs after ACL injury Faber: AJSM '99



Potter, Jain, Ma, et al: AJSM '12

- 42 knees in 40 patients (28 ACLR, 14 non-op)
- MRI at time of initial injury then annually for a maximum of 11 yrs
- All patients sustained initial chondrating in the sustained initial chondrating in the sustained in the sust
- Risk of cartilage loss doubled from yr 1 for the lateral & medial compartment & 3x for patella
- By 7 to 11 years: LFC 50x, MFC 19x, & patella 30x
- Size of the bone bruise associated to degeneration from yr 1 to yr 3



















PACE Yourself First – Before you can go **FAST** !!!







Proprioception & Neuromuscular Control Drills for the ACL Patient



Dynamic Stabilization Stages of Motor Control Fitts & Posner		
COGNITIVE STAGE	ASSOCIATIVE STAGE	AUTONOMOUS STAGE
 Identify Objectives Self-talk/ Questioning ↑ Errors/Variability Instruction/ Feedback 	 Associate with environmental cues Refining/Consistent ↓Errors/Variability Identify/Correct Errors 	Subconscious/ automatic Multiple tasks ↓↓Errors/ variability ↑↑Identify/Correct Perfection
Beginner		Expert































ACL Rehabilitation

- Maintain knee motion
- ✓ Normalize unilateral muscle ratio
- ✓ Enhance stabilization proximal & distal Wilk et al: JOSPT '12
- Improve proprioception & NM control



Dynamic Stabilization Overview

- Proprioception
- Kinesthesia
- Neuromuscular control
- Functional stability
- Dynamic stabilization





























ACL Rehabilitation Dynamic Stabilization Drills

0

- Progress strengthening program
 - ✓ Leg press 40-100 deg.
 - ✓ Wall squats 0-70 deg.
 - ✓ Decline squats
 - ✓ Lateral step-ups
 - ✓ Front step-downs
 - ✓ Knee extensions 90-40 deg
 - » Hip & hamstrings
 - » Calf muscles





































Escamilla & Wilk: JOSPT '08 Escamilla & Wilk: Clin Biomech '08















































My Favorite Hip Exercises

- ✓ Sidelying clams with manual resistance
- ✓ Seated theraband ER
- ✓ RDLs



- ✓ Star drill
- ✓ Instant Replay
- ✓ Single leg bosu ball catches

✓ Single leg front step downs

✓ Planks with hip abduction & ext























Stabilization Above & Below











ACL Deficient Knee Rehab II: Dynamic Stabilization Phase (weeks 4-7) • Enhance stabilization proximal & distal

- » Lateral lunges
- » Lateral / front step downs
- » Hip strengthening
- » Lunges on foam
- » Balance beam
- » Strengthening ankle /foot



























<section-header>ACL Rehabilitation Dynamic Stabilization Drills • Improve proprioception & NM control • Retrograde stepping • Unilateral restrict movements • Front & back lunges • Tilt board squats • Balance drills

ACL Rehabilitation Neuromuscular Activity Drills

- Enhance neuromuscular control
- Gradually increase strength
- Promote endurance



• Gradually increase applied loads





Tilt Board Progression

















Challenge the Neuromuscular System



























ACL Rehabilitation Running & Functional Drills

- Running straight line first
- ✓ Running deceleration stop go again
- ✓ Then progress to 45 deg. cutting
- ✓ Then progress to 90 deg. cutting
- ✓ Initiate drills at 50-60% then progress to 60-75% then to 75-90% then lastly 100% *Progression is based on signs & symptoms*



ACL Rehabilitation Agility Drills – Running Drills

- ✓ Backward Running
- ✓ Forward Run
- ✓ Side slides (low)
- ✓ Cariocas
- ✓ Start/stops
- ✓ Acceleration ladders
- ✓ Reaction drills
- ✓ Combinations









































	Knee Lab	
	Proprioception & NM Control	
✓ St	ability Position (30-45°)	
✓	standing on floor	
✓	standing on floor (eyes closed)	
✓	standing catching a ball	
✓	standing with ball up & down	
✓	standing on foam	
✓	standing on floor then foam side to side overhead	
✓	standing on floor cross drill	
~	standing on foam cross drill	

	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
✓	Lateral Lunges (30-45°)
	✓ straight no cord
	✓ straight with cord straight
	✓ diagonal (30° angles)
	✓ diagonal with rotation
	✓ lateral straight foam
	✓ lateral straight on foam fast
	✓ ball catches/throws
	✓ lunges onto rocker board 2

	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
~	Stepping Drills (Cones or Cups)
	✓ forward/backward
	✓ side to side
	✓ speed slow, fast & slow
	✓ stepping with ball drills
	✓ stepping with foam
	✓ step over huddle with rotation
	3

	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
✓	RDLs
	✓ unweighted
	✓ weighted
	✓ weighted with shoulder flexion & trunk ext
	✓ CLX RDL
	✓ star drill
	✓ cones/cups
	 tape on Hoor standing on hox
	✓ RDL into knee to chest 4

	Knee Lab		
	Proprioception & NM Control		
✓	Hip Abduction & ER Strengthening		
	✓ RDLs		
	✓ Star		
	 Side plank Side plank with hip abduction 		
	✓ side plank with hip abduction against wall		
	✓ side plank w/ hip abd against wall with Tband		
	✓ side plank hip abduction wall with IR 5		



	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
-	Perturbations
	✓ tilt board squats
	✓ tilt board squats with ball catches
	✓ tilt board ball catches with perturbations
	✓ single leg stability position w/ ball catches
	✓ single leg stab position w/ ball & perturbat
	✓ bosu ball ball catches
	✓ tremor board (?)
	✓ foam with theraband perturbations
	7





	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
✓	Lateral Slides
	✓ without resistance band
	✓ with resistance band (thighs)
	✓ with resistance bands (ankles)
	✓ with CLX
	✓ with CLX with ball catches
	✓ with CLX & reactive drills with ball catch
	✓ with CLX four corners
	10





	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
✓	Ladder Agility Drills
	✓ 2 feet forward
	✓ 2 feet sideways
	✓ front foot in lateral
	✓ back foot out lateral
	✓ Ickey shuffle
	✓ combination drills
	✓ reverse drills
	✓ combination & reverse drills
	✓ ladders with CLX 13





	Knee Lab
	Proprioception & NM Control
~	Functional Drills - Sports
	✓ Windmill Softball Pitching Drills
	✓ CLX resistance windmill motion
	✓ CLX resistance for shoulder flexion
	✓ Golfer's Drills
	✓ Back shoulder ER w/ lead leg abd (CLX)
	✓ Lead shoulder acceleration phase with back leg
	15

