

Professor M. A. Imam

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Subspecialist in Upper limb and Complex trauma reconstruction

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Large Rotator Cuff Repair

	Rehabilitation
On Discharge - 4 Weeks	 Sling 6 weeks, if abduction wedge then reduce to standard sling at 2-3 weeks Advice on sling management Neck, elbow, wrist & hand exercises Postural awareness and scapula control Active assisted closed chain ROM in safe zone (short lever) Kinetic chain rehabilitation Thoracic spine ROM Avoid combined abduction and external rotation and hand behind back
4-6 weeks	Light proprioceptive exercisesRemain in sling
6-8 Weeks 8-12 weeks	 Wean from sling Begin isometric strengthening in neutral - sub maximal isometric strengthening approx. 30%) Progress active assisted ROM beyond safe zone Begin early rotator cuff strengthening through range Active short lever kinetic chain rehab' of the affected arm progressing to long lever function movement
12 Weeks	 Patient specific functional/sports training Begin combined abduction and external rotation Full kinetic chain rehab Manual therapy to address and ROM deficits



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Sling	Sling 6 weeks (Possible abduction brace)
Physiotherapy Follow Up	Within 2 weeks post op

Milestones			
Week 8	ROM 75%-80% of normal, sling discarded, return to driving as able,		
	return to sedentary work		
3-6 months	Full ROM, return to swimming, golf and lifting. Return to manual work		
	as guided by surgeon/physiotherapist		
6 months	Unrestricted activity		

Patient Specific Instructions/Requirements	