

## Iliopsoas Release

This protocol should be used as a guideline for progression and should be tailored to the needs of the individual patient.

- **Weight bearing as tolerated – use crutches to normalize gait.**
  - May be needed for 2-4 weeks
- **Gentle emphasis on passive extension exercises.**
- **Aggressive hip flexion strengthening delayed 6 weeks.**
- **Functional progression as tolerated.**
- **Resumption of full activities allowed as tolerated after 3 months.**
- **Always use pharmacologic prophylaxis against heterotopic ossification (unless contraindicated).**
  - Quiz patient
  - Must initiate and maintain immediately postop

### PHASE 1:

### WEEK 1

#### Initial Exercise (*Weeks 1-3*)



Seated knee extensions



Seated weight shifts

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 1**

**Initial Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Ankle pumps



Hamstring sets



Glut sets



Adductor isometrics



Quad sets



Heel slides, active-assisted range of motion

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 1**

**Initial Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Log rolling



Double leg bridges



Pelvic tilt



Prone on elbows



Trunk rotation



Prone knee flexion

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 1**

**Initial Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Standing abduction without resistance



Standing flexion without resistance



Standing adduction without resistance



Pain dominant hip mobilization – grades I, II



Standing extension without resistance

**Other Exercises Week 1**

- Standard stationary bike without resistance at 3 days post-op (10 min. if tolerated)
- Upper body ergometer, upper body strengthening

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 2**

**In Addition to Previous Exercises (Weeks 1-3)**



Abduction isometrics



Superman



1/4 Mini squats



Theraband resistance on affected side –  
Abduction (start very low resistance)



Standing heel lifts



Theraband resistance on affected side –  
Adduction (start very low resistance)

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 2**

**In Addition to Previous Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Theraband resistance on affected side – Flexion (start very low resistance) **ONLY IF TOLERATED**



Theraband resistance on affected side – Extension (start very low resistance)

**Other Exercises Week 2**

- Wall mini-squats
- Physioball mini-squats with cocontraction
- Pool exercises (water walking, range of motion, march steps, lateral steps, backward walking, mini-squats, heel raises, hamstring and hip flexor stretches)

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 3**

**In Addition to Previous Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Stiffness dominant hip mobilization – grades III, IV

**PHASE 1:**

**WEEK 3**

**In Addition to Previous Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)



Double leg bridges to single leg bridges



Leg raise – Extension



Clamshells (pain-free range)



Shuttle leg press 90 degree hip flexion with co-contraction of adductors



Leg raise – Abduction



Dead bug

**PHASE 1:****WEEK 3****In Addition to Previous Exercises** (*Weeks 1-3*)

Quadruped 4 point support, progress 3 point support, progress 2 point



Lateral walking over cups and hurdles (pause on affected limb), add ball toss while walking



Seated physioball progression – hip flexion



Forward walking over cups and hurdles (pause on affected limb), add ball toss while walking

**Other Exercises Week 3**

- Continue stationary bike with minimal resistance – 5 min. increase daily
- Active range of motion with gradual end range stretch within tolerance
- Leg raise – Adduction
- Single leg sports cord leg press (long sitting) limiting hip flexion

**Goals of Phase 1**

- Restore range of motion
- Diminish pain and inflammation
- Prevent muscular inhibition
- Normalize gait

**Criteria for progression to Phase 2**

- Minimal pain with phase 1 exercises
- Minimal range of motion limitations
- Normalized gait without crutches



**PHASE 2:**

**WEEKS 4-5**

**Intermediate Exercises** (*Weeks 4-6*)



Crunches



Standing theraband/pulley weight – Adduction



Bosu squats



Standing theraband/pulley weight – Flexion



Standing theraband/pulley weight – Abduction



Standing theraband/pulley weight – Extension

**PHASE 1:****WEEKS 4-5****Intermediate Exercises** (*Weeks 4-6*)

Single leg balance – firm to soft surface



Sidestepping with resistance (pause on affected limb), sports cord walking forward and backward (pause on affected limb)



Clamshells with theraband

**Other Exercises Weeks 4-5**

- Gradually increase resistance with stationary bike
- Initiate elliptical machine
- Pool water exercises – flutterkick swimming, 4 way hip with water weights, step-ups

**PHASE 1:****WEEK 6****Intermediate Exercises** (*Weeks 4-6*)

Leg press (gradually increasing weight)

**PHASE 1:****WEEK 6****Intermediate Exercises** (*Weeks 4-6*)

Physioball hamstring exercises – hip lift, bent knee hip lift, curls, balance



Superman on physioball – 2 point on physioball

**Other Exercises Week 6**

- Single leg balance – firm to soft surface with external perturbation (ball catch, sports specific/simulated ex.)
- Knee extensions, hamstring curls

**Goals of Phase 2**

- Restore pain-free range of motion
- Initiate proprioception exercises
- Progressively increase muscle strength and endurance

**Criteria for progression to Phase 3**

- Minimum pain with phase 2 exercises
- Single leg stance with level pelvis

## PHASE 3: Advanced Exercises (*Weeks 7-8*)

## WEEKS 7-8



Step-ups with eccentric lowering



Side steps over cups/hurdles (with ball toss and external sports cord resistance), increase speed



Lunges progress from single plane to tri-planar, add medicine balls for resistance and rotation



Single leg body weight squats, increase external resistance, stand on soft surface



Theraband walking patterns – forward, sidestepping, carioca, monster steps, backward, ½ circles forward/backward – 25 yds. Start band at knee height and progress to ankle height

### Other Exercises Weeks 7-8

- Full squats
- Single stability ball bridges

### Goals for Phase 3

- Restoration of muscular endurance/strength
- Restoration of cardiovascular endurance
- Optimize neuromuscular control/balance/proprioception

**PHASE 3:****WEEKS 7-8****Advanced Exercises** (*Weeks 7-8*)**Criteria for Progression to Phase 4**

- Single leg mini-squat with level pelvis
- Cardiovascular fitness equal to preinjury level
- Demonstration of initial agility drills with proper body mechanics

**PHASE 4:****WEEKS 9-11****Sports specific training rehab clinic based progression**

Single leg pick-ups, add soft surface

**Other Exercises Weeks 9-11**

- All phase 3 exercises
- Pool running (progress from chest deep to waist deep), treadmill jogging
- Step drills, quick feet step-ups (4-6 inch box) forward, lateral, carioca
- Plyometrics, double leg and single leg shuttle jumps
- Theraband walking patterns 1 rep of six exercises x 50yds, progress to band at knee height and ankle height

**PHASE 4:****WEEKS 12 & BEYOND****Sports specific training on field or court****Other Exercises Weeks 12 & Beyond**

- Running progression
- Sport specific drills
- Traditional weight training

**Criteria for full return to competition**

- Full range of motion
- Hip strength equal to uninvolved side, single leg pick-up with level pelvis
- Ability to perform sport-specific drills at full speed without pain
- Completion of functional sports test