

Table II. Panelist recommendations for rehabilitation guidelines following surgical management of GTPS

Gluteal Repair Physiotherapy Guidelines

Phase I: Immediate Postoperative Phase (Weeks 1–6)

Goals:

Protect healing tissues
Reduce postoperative pain and inflammation
Normalized gait pattern with an appropriate assistive device

Precautions:

Weight-bearing (WB) : Foot flat weight bearing 20% body weight
Range of motion:
Hip flexion limited to 90°
Hip external rotation limited to 20°
Hip adduction limited to neutral
Active, against gravity hip abduction contraindicated until postoperative week 8
Active long lever hip flexion contraindicated until week 12

Therapeutic interventions:

Ankle pumps, hamstring, and quadriceps setting
Submaximal isometrics of hip adductors, hip extensors and lower abdominals
Cryotherapy and compression for inflammation and oedema control
Aqua therapy for gait training upon healing of surgical incision

Phase II: Early postoperative phase (Weeks 6–8)

Goals:

Gentle progression of ROM
Continue protecting healing soft tissues
Limit irritation of hip flexors and hip abductors through slow, gentle progression

Precautions:

Weight-bearing: progress to FWB as tolerated
Active, against gravity hip abduction contraindicated until postoperative week 8
Active long lever hip flexion contraindicated until week 12

Physical therapy:

Initiate upright stationary bike with no resistance
Submaximal isometrics in all directions, including hip abductors in a gravity eliminated position
Gradual loading of iliopsoas tendon is critical to avoid tendonitis
Short lever active (AROM) and active assistive (AAROM) for hip ROM
Lumbopelvic neuromuscular control exercises in supine

Phase III: strengthening phase (Weeks 8–12)

Goals:

Near full, symmetrical ROM
Improve hip and core strength and neuromuscular control
Gradual WB progression (normalized gait pattern and physician clearance required for weaning from assistive device)

Precautions:

Monitor for symptoms of intra- and extra-articular irritation with exercise and WB progression
Avoid premature weaning from the assistive device
Active long lever hip flexion contraindicated until week 12

Physical therapy:

Gradual progression of functional ROM
Upright bike with progressive resistance
Progress from hip abductor isometrics in gravity eliminated positions to isotonic in positions of gravity as tolerated
Introduce elliptical between 8 and 10 weeks as tolerated
Initiate closed chain strengthening progression with focus on single leg pelvic control as tolerated
Progress lumbopelvic stabilization and postural control exercises

Phase IV: return to low-level impact (weeks 12–16)

Goals:

Tolerance of running and agility drills with appropriate lumbopelvic and lower extremity control

Precautions:

Avoid provocation of symptoms with progression of exercise
No jumping, hopping, cutting/pivoting

Physical therapy:

Initiate running and agility progressions with emphasis on dynamic control of lower extremity and pelvis
Continue high-level strength and control exercise with focus on single leg pelvic control

Phase V: return to full participation in sports (weeks 16+)

Goals:

Tolerance of jumping, hopping, cutting/pivoting drills with appropriate lumbopelvic and lower extremity control
Return to full participation in sports

Precautions:

Avoid provocation of symptoms with progression of exercise

Physical therapy:

Initiate jumping and hopping progression with emphasis on dynamic control of lower extremity and pelvis
Sport-specific cutting and pivoting drills with emphasis on dynamic control of lower extremity and pelvis