Kevin M. Roth, MDOrthopedic Surgeon
Sports Medicine / Fracture Care

OLECRANON FRACTURE ORIF REHABILITATION PROTOCOL

(TO BE GIVEN TO YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPIST)

	SPLINT/ BRACE	ROM/ THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE
PHASE I: (WEEK 0-3)	 Post-op splint at all times for 1 week Transition to hinged elbow brace locked at 90° after 1 week Brace is unlocked only for ROM exercise (settings 0°-90°) STRESS IMPORTANCE OF FREQUENT HOME ROM EXERCISE, AT LEAST 3-4 TIME PER DAY 	 Passive extension to 0° as tolerated Active flexion to 90° as tolerated Achieve full forearm supination and pronation Shoulder, wrist, hand exercises encouraged Edema control/Scar management Apply ice after exercises NO ACTIVE ELBOW EXTENSION until 6 weeks post-op
PHASE II: (WEEK 3-6)	 Hinged elbow brace at all times except exercise or hygiene Unlock brace according to ROM progression STRESS IMPORTANCE OF FREQUENT HOME ROM EXERCISE, AT LEAST 3-4 TIMES PER DAY 	 Passive extension to 0° as tolerated. Active/Passive flexion may be increased by 10° per week as tolerated. Continue with shoulder, wrist, hand exercises. NO ACTIVE ELBOW EXTENSION until 6 weeks post-op
PHASE III: (WEEK 6-6 MONTHS)	 Gradually wean from brace at 8 weeks from surgery STRESS IMPORTANCE OF FREQUENT HOME ROM EXERCISE, AT LEAST 3-4 TIMES PER DAY UNTIL FULL 	 Begin active elbow extension gradually and progress with strength program. Continue ROM as necessary.