

Center for Athletic Medicine

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PRP – Ankle/ Foot

Healing Process:

Post -Injection 1-10: Gap is filled with wbc's and PRP is activating to prepare for cross bridging.

Protection Phase Week 1-Week 3: Allow the initiation of cross-bridging and filling the gap with the prp

Light Activity Phase: Week 2-5: Collagen synthesis and aligns in the longitudinal axis, initiating tensile strength

Return to Activity: Week 4 - 3 months: Collagen increasing tensile strength and elasticity

Patient Response:

Day 1 and 2: painful in the joint

Day 3-6: Diminishing pain and improving significantly

Day 7: Sometimes no pain at all, improved quality of ROM

***Therefore, pain is not an indicator of the healing process!!!**

Goals:

- **Allow the PRP to absorb at the location (7-10 days)**
- **Muscle belly 3-4 weeks (interval return to sport program begins)**
- **Plantar Fascia and Achilles Tendon 6-8 weeks (interval return to sport program begins)**
- **Ligaments 4-10 weeks: Depends on severity of sprain!! (interval return to sport program begins),**

RANGE OF MOTION AND WEIGHT BEARING

- **Week 1:** Begin PROM only for PT only in the first week.
PWB/NWB walking boot, crutches
- **Week 2:** Begin low level closed chain activity.
Walking only. Remove immobilizer.
- **Week 3 and 4:** AAROM should get 90% of ROM without stretching by end of week 2
Initiate trot or light jogging activities (not long duration) <15 minutes
- **Week 4:** Begin gentle stretching.
Initiate jog, stride and light run straight planes...no deceleration
- **Week 5-6:** Begin Stretching of muscles
Initiate jump progression, cutting activities, sprints, change of direction

STRENGTH: All pathologies must go through week 1 and 2. Weeks 3 and so on.... can be modified depending on the above pathologies and sport related in season vs post season. This schedule is optimal for tissue healing.

- **Week 1-2:** no strengthening, no activity, no modalities, Gentle PROM only Towel slides
- **Week 2:** begin PROM and AAROM exercises within pain free range (no stretching).
Level 1 exercises: ABC's, DF/PF, form run @ walk pace. Selective dynamic warm-Up. Begin straight leg closed chain exercises on stable surface only. Initiate Leg press ankle @0°
- **Week 3:** Begin resisted band strength, Dynamic warm-up, Form run @ trot to jog pace ladder @ jog pace. Resisted walk outs -all directions. Begin Bike for cardio
- **Week 4 and 5:** Controlled and low intensity (in place) return to sport drills. Progressive 40-60 yards (jog, and stride). Begin elliptical for cardio
- **Week 6-7:** Begin Jump Progression, Increase speed of agility, change direction, Jogging for cardio
- **Week 8-10:** Begin sprinting and Return to sport activities 50-75%. Effort
- **Week 11-12:** Return to competition