

**Adam Seidl, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Shoulder/Elbow Surgery  
Department of Orthopedics  
University of Colorado



**Lone Tree Health Center**  
(720) 848-2200

**Anschutz Medical Campus**  
(720) 848-1900

## Rehabilitation Protocol Radial Head Replacement

### **Phase I: Early ROM & Protect Repair** (*0 to 6 weeks*)

- Splint and postop dressing remains in place for the first week.
- Hinged Elbow Brace worn at all times (after the initial dressing removed)
- Avoid varus/valgus forces across the elbow until 3 months postop.
- Initiate elbow exercise program 5 times per day:
  - Passive and active elbow ROM to full flexion
  - Elbow extension to 20 (with forearm pronated) week 2
  - Elbow extension to 10 (with forearm pronated) week 3
  - Elbow extension to 0 (with forearm pronated) week 4
  - Forearm pronation/supination ROM with elbow at 90 degrees flexion
- Grip and wrist/hand AROM immediately.
- Perform supination ROM only with the elbow flexed to 90 degrees.

### **Phase II: Full ROM and function** (*>6 weeks*)

- Advance ROM:
  - Full elbow and forearm ROM out of HEB
  - Terminal elbow extension performed with the forearm neutral or pronated until 3 months.
- Initiate elbow and forearm strengthening.
- Avoid varus forces across the elbow until 3 months postop.
- Avoid activities creating axial load to involved extremity until 3 months postop.