

Carpal Tunnel Release

Dr. Erickson

❖ Schedule OT 2-5 days post-op.

Time Frame	Treatment	Goals
Phase I Post-Op Day 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and Treat. • Dressing change and check for signs/symptoms of infection. • Assess ROM, wound care, numbness/tingling symptoms, and pain symptoms (keep incision dry). • Instruct in edema management. • Fit with D-ring protection orthosis to wear for 2 weeks (as needed during day) and to wear at night. • Instruct in HEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tendon gliding exercises ○ active isolated finger flexion exercises, ○ active wrist flexion/extension ○ median nerve glides to begin 5-7 days post-op. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edema control • Pain management • ROM
Phase II 10-14 Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin wrist strengthening exercises (flexion/extension). • Progress with grip strength exercises (i.e. theraputty, soft rubber ball, hand helper). • Instruct in scar management techniques, Issue scar pad • If worn, orthosis is primarily worn at night now. (Wear out as comfort allows). • Avoid heavy gripping for 6 weeks post op 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incision care • Gentle PREs
Phase II 3 Weeks If needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May use modalities as indicated (ultrasound typically not done until 4 weeks post-op). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May include Ketoprofen, Dexamethasone, or Potassium Iodide as indicated at 4 weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional ROM • Scar management
	<p>** Usually see the client 1-2 days after surgery and again 10-14 days post-op (same day as doctor's appointment). The therapist may follow up with this client more frequently if the client experiences severe pain and swelling or if the client is unable to make a fist.</p> <p>**No lifting, grasping, gripping, pinching, pushing, and pulling of more than 15# and thumb restrictions last until 6 weeks post-op.</p>	