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Post-Operative Biceps Tenodesis (without Rotator Cuff Repair) Protocol

0-4 Weeks:

- Sling for first 4 weeks
- PROM → AAROM → AROM of elbow without resistance. This gives biceps tendon time to heal into new insertion site on humerus without being stressed
- Encourage pronation/supination without resistance
- Grip strengthening
- Maintain shoulder motion by progressing PROM → AROM without restrictions
- ROM goals: Full passive flexion and extension at elbow; full shoulder AROM
- No resisted motions until 4 weeks post-op
- Heat before PT sessions; other physical modalities per PT discretion

4-12 Weeks:

- D/C sling
- Begin AROM for elbow in all directions with passive stretching at end ranges to maintain or increase biceps/elbow flexibility and ROM
- At 6 weeks, begin light isometrics with arm at side for rotator cuff and deltoid; can advance as tolerated
- At 6 weeks, begin scapular strengthening

3-12 Months:

- Only do strengthening 3x/week to avoid rotator cuff tendonitis
- Begin UE ergometer
- Begin eccentrically resisted motions, plyometrics (ex weighted ball toss), proprioception (ex body blade), and closed chain exercises at 12 weeks.
- Begin sports related rehab at 3 months, including advanced conditioning
- Return to throwing and begin swimming at 3 months (see return to throwing program)
- Throw from pitcher's mound at 4 ½ months (see return to throwing program)
- Collision sports at 6 months