

## **Inability to Lift arm Physical Therapy Protocol (Levy Protocol)**

Instructions for Therapist

The patient should work with therapist 1-3 x per week until released by surgeon

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Goals	<ul> <li>The main goals of this physical therapy program are to:</li> <li>1) Have the patient regain the ability to lift their arm against gravity without pain or substitution by progressing the patients through a progression of active arm mobility from gravity minimized activities in supine to inclined to upright active arm motion.</li> <li>2) Although full motion may not be achieved by all patients the goal is to increase active arm mobility to normalize activities of daily living</li> </ul>
Ice	We encourage the use of the ice or the cryocuff to help control pain and inflammation if needed
Questions/ Concerns	If you have questions or concerns, please contact the patient's physician, Carolyn Hettrich at (617)525-3427
Phase 1	<ul> <li>Perform exercises 5 times a day for 5-10 repetitions</li> <li>Lie on back with head on pillow for comfort</li> <li>Support or assist arm to straight up toward ceiling(90°)         <ul> <li>elbow flexed is sometimes easier</li> </ul> </li> <li>Hold arm by itself and gradually elevate toward head and lower toward feet with ability to return to straight up, progress 1 inch at a time, to gain control of arm         <ul> <li>Start using opposite hand, as you gain confidence</li> </ul> </li> <li>Progress to performing motion without opposite hand through arc of motion (Therapist hands)</li> </ul>

Phase 2	<ul> <li>Perform exercises 5 times a day for 5-10 repetitions</li> <li>Lie on back with head on pillow for comfort</li> </ul>
	Hold a can of soup in hand (dumbbell) with arm straight up to ceiling
	<ul> <li>Move arm through arc of motion with resistance start with 2 inch up and down</li> </ul>
	but gradually increasing the arc as your strength increases
	but gradually increasing the arc as your strength increases
	<ul> <li>In some patients squeezing a ball between hands (subscapularis activation) or</li> </ul>
	pulling light elastic resistance apart (infraspinatus activation) will overcome sticking points in the arc of motion
Phase 3	Perform exercises 5 times a day for 5-10 repetitions
	Lie on a wedge at 30° incline (approximately 2 pillows)
	Move arm up and down through arc of motion
	Opposite hand supporting
	No assistance from opposite hand
	<ul> <li>With a soup can through an increasing arc of motion</li> </ul>
Phase 4	Perform exercises 5 times a day for 5-10 repetitions
1 11450 4	<ul> <li>Lie on a wedge at 60° incline (approximately 2 pillows against bead</li> </ul>
	headboard or wall)
	Move arm up and down through arc of motion
	Opposite hand supporting
	No assistance from opposite hand
	<ul> <li>With a soup can through an increasing arc of motion</li> </ul>
Phase 5	Perform exercises 5 times a day for 5-10 repetitions
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	Move arm up and down through arc of motion     Opposite hand supporting
	<ul> <li>Opposite hand supporting</li> <li>No assistance from opposite hand</li> </ul>
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	<ul> <li>With a soup can through an increasing arc of motion</li> </ul>