

Carpal Tunnel Release

Dr. Murphy

*Schedule OT 1-3 days post-op.

Time Frame	Treatment	Goals
Phase I Post-Op Day 1-3	<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. • Instruct in edema management. • Instruct in tendon gliding exercises. • Instruct in active isolated finger flexion exercises. • Instruct in active wrist flexion/extension. • Educate in 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. soft rubber ball, hand helper). • Instruct in scar management techniques (to begin once incision is healed). • Issue scar pad (to be worn once incision is healed). • If worn, orthosis is primarily worn at night now. (Wean out as comfort allows). 	<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>**Lifting restriction is as tolerated, but NO heavy gripping.</p> <p>**No orthosis is needed.</p>	