

## ANTERIOR DELTOID EXERCISES FOR MASSIVE ROTATOR CUFF TEARS

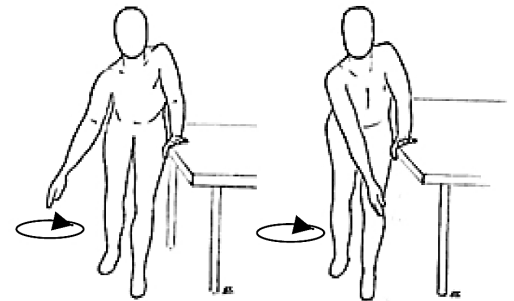
### READING SHOULDER PROTOCOL

As a result of prolonged overuse and wear and tear, the rotator cuff muscles — the muscles arising from the shoulder blade and attaching to the top of your humerus (arm bone) — have become torn. This means you are no longer able to easily lift your arm above 90 degrees. However, there is another powerful muscle on the outside of your arm — the deltoid muscle — that may be re-educated to compensate for the torn rotator cuff.

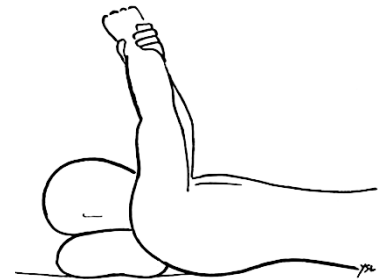
The following exercises should be done three to five times a day to strengthen your deltoid muscle. It will reduce your pain and improve both the range of movement and your arm function. These exercises must be done for at least 12 weeks and **must always be performed starting lying down to begin with**. You will be taught the exercise at the unit and reviewed at 6 and 12 weeks.

#### Exercises:

1. While standing, bend forward and let your arm dangle free. Perform gentle pendulum movement for about 5 minutes. This will help you in relieving pain and free up our muscles around the shoulder.

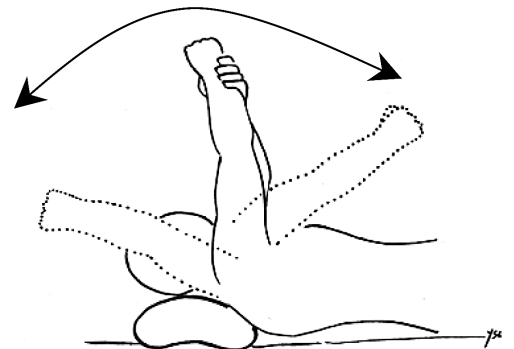


2. Lie down flat on your back, with a pillow supporting your head.
3. Raise your weak arm to 90 degrees vertical, using the stronger arm to assist, if necessary. The elbow should be straight and in line with your ear.
4. Hold your arm in this upright position with its own strength.
5. Slowly, with your fingers, wrist, and elbow straight, move the arm forwards and backwards in line with the outside of the leg, as the diagram shows (gentle movement back and forth from the arm-upright position.)



Keep the movement smooth and continuous for 5 minutes or until fatigue.

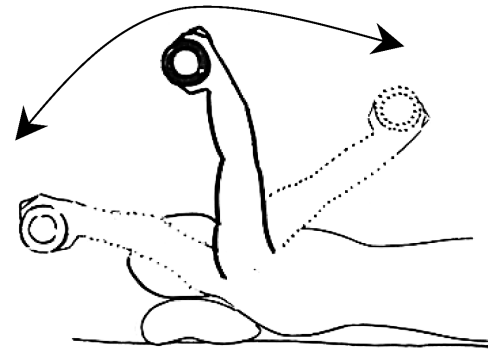
6. As you get more confident in controlling your shoulder movement, gradually increase the amplitude of movement until your arm will move from the side of your thigh to above your head, touching the bed, and returning to its starting position.



Keep the movement smooth and continuous for 5 minutes or until fatigue.

7. As you get more confident in controlling your shoulder movement, a light weight (e.g. a tin of beans or small paperweight) should be held in the affected hand.

Repeat as above (5 and 6).



8. Once you have more confidence in controlling your shoulder movement, gradually go from performing these exercises lying down to performing them sitting, and eventually to performing them standing.

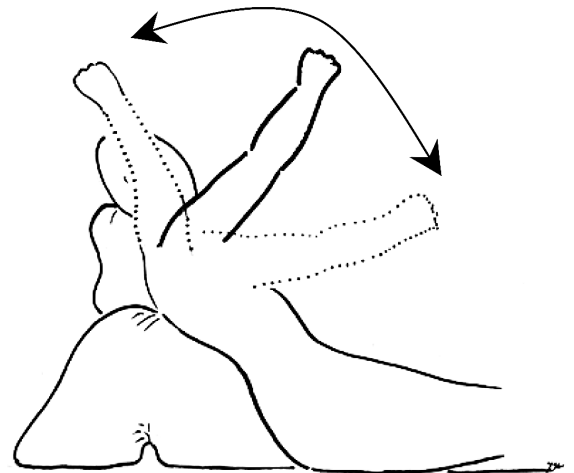
At this stage, you may recline the head of your bed or put some pillows underneath your back to recline your position.

Repeat the same exercise again, this time against some gravity.

Start again from holding your arm in the upright position with its own strength.

Repeat as above (5, 6, and 7).

Start first without any weights and progress to use the same light weight you used before in the lying down position (e.g. a tin of beans or small paperweight).



9. Another useful exercise for re-education of concentric contracture of the deltoid muscle.

Make a fist with the hand of the affected side. The flat hand of the opposite side is providing resistance. Push your affected side hand against resistance from the other hand. While doing this, you will notice that you can fully elevate your arm (above your head).

Repeat these exercises in order to re-educate your deltoid muscle to learn to perform this “concentric contracture” even without pushing against your other arm.

You should repeat these exercises X 10 in a session, 3 to 5 sessions per day.

10. Stop exercising if your pain increases or you feel unwell.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us.

