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Management of Adhesive Capsulitis: 2017 Update
David Nolan, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, SCS, CSCS

Learning Objectives

- Describe the anatomical and pathophysiological changes that occur with adhesive capsulitis.
- List the associated stages of adhesive capsulitis and the signs and symptoms of each stage.
- Recognize the clinical presentation of adhesive capsulitis and associated differential diagnosis considerations.
- Identify patient classification and treatment strategies based on irritability level.
- Recognize an evidence-based treatment program for patients with adhesive capsulitis.
Frozen Shoulder

“A condition difficult to define, difficult to treat, and difficult to explain from the point of view of pathology.” (Codman)

Often used to refer to any shoulder condition consisting of pain and limited ROM

Clinical Controversy

- Adhesive capsulitis vs. stiff painful shoulder
  - Are they the same thing?
  - Is the treatment approach different?
  - Is aggressive treatment the most successful?
  - Referred to as “Self-Limiting” condition
Clinical Controversy

• Some literature has shown recovery of severe cases without treatment in 2 years

• Other studies have shown patients to remain symptomatic for 3-10 years

Is It Self-Limiting?

• Grey RG. JBJS 1978
  – Simple analgesics & reassurance (2 yr F/U)
  – 24/25 “absolutely normal function”

• Miller MD. et al. Orthopedics 1996
  – 50 patients treated with moist heat & NSAIDs
  – 100% reported normal function of arm & minimal residual arm pain (4 yr F/U)

• Griggs JBJS 2000
  – Prospective study of 75 patients with adhesive capsulitis
  – 90% successful with “stretching” program
  – ROM improved
    • Flexion ↑ by 43°
    • ER ↑ by 25°
Is It Self-Limiting?

- Shaffer et al. JBJS 1992
  - 62 patients with adhesive capsulitis
  - Interventions included
    - PT, NSAIDs, Injections, MUA
  - 7 year follow-up
    - 50% had mild pain and stiffness
    - 60% had restricted motion
    - Only 40% demonstrated symmetrical motion
- Hand C. et al. JSES 2008
  - 50% had residual mild pain and decreased motion
- Studies with patient based outcomes seem to be more favorable than those utilizing objective data

Adhesive Capsulitis Definition

- An inflammatory reaction of the capsule &/or synovium that subsequently leads to formation of adhesions in the axillary fold and attachment of inferior capsule to anatomic neck
- Neviaser; JBJS 1945
Adhesive Capsulitis Definition

- Zuckerman JD & Rokito A. JSES 2011
  - Frozen shoulder is a condition characterized by functional restriction of both active and passive shoulder motion for which radiographs of the glenohumeral joint are essentially unremarkable except for the possible presence of osteopenia or calcific tendinitis

Adhesive Capsulitis Definition

- Zuckerman JD & Rokito A. JSES 2011
  - Classification
    - Primary
      - Primary frozen shoulder is considered a diagnosis for all cases for which an underlying etiology or associated condition cannot be identified
    - Secondary
      - The secondary types of frozen shoulder include all cases of frozen shoulder in which an underlying etiology or associated condition can be identified
Adhesive Capsulitis Definition

- Zuckerman JD & Rokito A. JSES 2011
  - **Secondary Frozen Shoulder**
    - Intrinsic
      - Occurs in association with rotator cuff disorders, biceps tendinitis or calcific tendinitis
    - Extrinsic
      - Association with an identifiable abnormality remote to the shoulder itself. I.E. breast surgery, cervical radiculopathy, CVA, MI, humeral fracture, AC arthritis
  - Systemic
    - Association with systemic disorders such as DM, hyper/hypothyroidism, hypoadrenalism

Frozen Shoulder: Clinical

- Cyriax
  - **Freezing: 1-6 months**
    - Acute
    - Vague lateral arm pain
  - **Frozen: 6-12 months**
    - Little to no pain
    - Significant motion loss
    - Capsular Pattern
      - ER > ABD > IR-Flexion
  - **Thawing: 12-24 months**
    - Resolution of impairments
Frozen Shoulder: Arthroscopic

- Stage 1 / Pre-Adhesive Stage
  - Duration of symptoms: 0 to 3 months
  - Synovial inflammation
  - No capsular changes present
  - Minimal or no limitation in mobility
  - Pain with A-PROM at end range
    - Deltoid region
    - Similar to impingement or tendinitis
- Clinical Pearl
  - Misdiagnosed with RC impingement
  - Limited ER with intact RC strength


Frozen Shoulder: Arthroscopic

- Stage 2 / Acute Adhesive Stage / Freezing Stage
  - Duration of symptoms: 3 to 9 months
  - Synovitis (red) and early capsular adhesions
  - Progressive shoulder pain with A-PROM
  - Loss of joint space
  - Limited mobility in all planes

Frozen Shoulder: Arthroscopic

• Stage 3 / Fibrotic Stage / Frozen Stage
  – Duration of symptoms: 9 - 15 months
  – Primary C/O stiffness
  – Loss of axillary fold and decreased synovitis (pink)
    • ? Able to sleep through night
  – Limitation in movement with rigid end-feel
    • Unchanged with intra-articular injection
  – Pain at end-range & at night


Frozen Shoulder: Arthroscopic

• Stage 4 / Chronic Adhesive Stage / Thawing Phase
  – Duration of symptoms: 15 to 24 months since onset
  – Minimal pain / No synovitis present
  – Arthroscopy
    • Mature adhesions and significant restrictions
  – Resolution of symptoms?
    – Critical to understand that the stages are not distinct but rather represent a continuum of disease

Risk Factors

Adhesive Capsulitis
A Review of Current Treatment

Andrew S. Neulius, MD, and Jo A. Hannafin, MD, PhD
From the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York City, New York

- Insidious onset
- 2%-5% of all shoulder conditions
- Women > Men
- 40-65 years old
- Non-dominant vs. Dominant conflicting
- Sedentary workers
- Hemiplegic shoulder
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Cardiac disease
  - Elevated serum lipid levels (Bunker et al.)
- Hypothyroidism
- Diabetes Mellitus

Risk Factors

- Diabetes Mellitus
  - Ogilvie-Harris et al. Arthroscopy 1997
    - Hyperglycemia leads to increase in intermolecular cross-linkages in collagen
    - Collagen is more resistant to degeneration and more likely to accumulate
    - Collagen cross-links may also increase the stiffness of connective tissue
Prevalence

  - **126 patients with idiopathic adhesive capsulitis**
    - 29.3% had DM
  - **76 women (55 yo ±8.4) & 50 men (54.7 yo ±8.7)**
    - Women with DM = 23.7% vs. 4.7%
    - Men with DM = 38% vs. 6.5%
  - **Hypothyroidism**
    - 21.1% with idiopathic adhesive capsulitis vs. 7.9%
      age-matched control
    - Predominantly females

Pathology

- Elevated serum cytokine levels
  - **Synovial inflammation**
    - ↑ Pain & limited motion
  - **GHJ capsuloligamentous complex fibrotic**
    - Contracture & ↓ ROM
  - **New nerve growth in capsuloligamentous complex**
    - ↑ pain
Pathology

- Chronic capsular inflammation
- Capsular fibrosis
- Constrictive capsulitis
- Adhesion of synovial folds
- Obliteration of joint cavity
- Formation of scar tissue
- Thickened and contracted capsule becomes fixed to bone

Pathomechanics of Motion Loss

- Contractures
  - Capsule
  - Ligaments
  - Musculotendinous units
- Adhesions
  - Rotator Cuff Interval
    - Roubal et al JOSPT 1996
  - Biceps & Subscapularis
    - Fareed et al Clin Orthop 1989
- Scapulothoracic Restrictions
- Pain produces guarding and RC inhibition
Diagnostic Criteria

- Recognition of capsular pattern (Cyriax)
  - ER > ABD > IR
  - Conflicting evidence
- Zuckerman et al JSES, 1994
  - Insidious onset, night pain
  - Painful and limited A-PROM
    - Elevation <100°
    - ER <50% of normal at 0° Abd
  - Normal radiographs
- JOSPT Clinical Practice Guidelines 2013
  - Loss of AROM & PROM
  - ROM loss >25% in 2+ planes
  - Passive ER loss >50% of uninvolved or <30°

- Key = **ALL** motions limited

Patient Presentation

- Insidious onset
- Pain predominant early
  - New nerve growth in capsuloligamentous complex
    - Hand GC et al. JBJS (Br) 2007
  - Vague in deltoïd area and
  - C5 distribution along lateral arm
- Pain on palpation
  - Bicipital groove
- Difficulty sleeping
- Pain at rest subsides with progression
- Pain resolves spontaneously
- Motion restriction continues
Outcome Measures

- Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH)
  - MCID 10.2 points
- QuickDASH
  - MCID 8 points
    - Mintken PE et al. JSES. 2009
- Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (SPADI)
  - MCID 8-13 points
- Penn Shoulder Scale
  - MCID 11.4 points
    - Leggin BG et al. JOSPT. 2006

Physical Exam

- Acute
  - Protected limb
  - Guarded motion
  - Significant difficulty sleeping
  - Prefer to use sling
  - Muscle spasm
  - ROM difficult to assess
  - Empty end feel: Pain before end-range resistance
Physical Exam

• Sub-Acute / Chronic
  – Motion restriction predominant feature
  – Scapular substitution
  – Disuse atrophy of shoulder complex muscles
  – ROM restricted with end-range pain
  – MMT in mid-range asymptomatic
    • Weak IR & elevation
  – Capsular pattern
  – Limited joint play throughout
    • Inferior is most limited then anterior

Clinical Identifiers Stage 1

• Walmsley S et al. Phys Ther. 2009
  – Strong component of night pain
  – Marked increase in pain with rapid or unguarded movements
  – Uncomfortable to lie on affected shoulder
  – Pain is easily aggravated by movement
  – Older than 35 yo
  – End range pain in all directions
  – Global loss of A/PROM
  – Global loss of passive GHJ mobility
Clinical Identifiers Stage 1

• Walmsley S et al. *Phys Ther.* 2014
  – None of the clinical identifiers validated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>No. of Participants (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a strong component of night pain</td>
<td>62 (96.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a marked increase in pain with rapid or unguarded movements</td>
<td>57 (89.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is uncomfortable to lie on the affected shoulder</td>
<td>61 (95.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The patient reports the pain is easily aggravated by movement</td>
<td>55 (85.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The onset generally occurs in people older than 35 years of age</td>
<td>64 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On examination, there is pain at the end of range in all directions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active: 59 (92.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive: 60 (93.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On examination, there is global loss of active and passive range of movement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active: 42 (64.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive: 43 (67.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is global loss of passive glenohumeral joint movement</td>
<td>47 (73.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[CLINICAL COMMENTARY]

FROZEN SHOULDER: EVIDENCE AND A PROPOSED MODEL GUIDING REHABILITATION

**TABLE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irritability Classification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Irritability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High pain (&gt;7/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent night or resting pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High disability on DASH, ASES, PSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain prior to end ROM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AROM less than PROM, secondary to pain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: AROM, active assisted range of motion; AROM, active range of motion; ASES, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons Score; DASH, Disability of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand Questionnaire; PROM, passive range of motion; PSS, Penn Shoulder Score; ROM, range of motion.
Subjective History

- Ability to sleep through night
- What is the predominant symptom
  - Pain vs. stiffness
- Improving or worsening over the last 3 weeks

Diagnostic Imaging

- Radiographs
  - Typically normal
  - Rule-out pathology
    - Osteoarthritis
    - Osteoporosis
    - Degenerative changes
    - Calcium deposits
    - Decreased subacromial space
Diagnostic Imaging

- Arthrography
  - “Gold Standard”
  - 50% reduction of joint volume
  - Normal = 20-30ml dye
  - Frozen Shoulder = 5-10ml dye

- MRI
    - R/O RC & labrum
    - Identify abnormal Rotator Interval
  - Emig et al. AJR.1995
    - Inferior joint capsule and synovial thickening >4mm was a significant finding
Diagnostic Imaging

- Dynamic Sonography
  - Lee JC. et al. *Skeletal Radiol.* 2005
    - Differentiate RC tendinopathy
    - 100% (30/30) patients with frozen shoulder had fibrovascular inflammatory changes in Rotator Interval

    - Limited gliding of supraspinatus tendon
    - Biceps muscle sheath effusion present
    - Sensitivity = 91%
    - Specificity = 100%

Differential Diagnosis

- Impingement Syndrome
  - Normal accessory glide at GH joint

- Rotator Cuff Lesion
  - Normal PROM and accessory glide at GH joint
  - Pain with AROM with arm at side

- Biceps Tendinitis
  - Closely related to adhesive capsulitis
  - Pain present with both diagnoses
  - Normal accessory glide at GH joint
Differential Diagnosis

- Osteoarthritis
  - Pain and capsular pattern with both (Cyriax)
  - (+) Radiographic findings: spurring, ↓ joint space
- Cervical Radiculopathy
  - Similar pain in C5 distribution
  - Symptoms reproduced with cervical exam
- Neural Tension
  - Typical with trauma or repetitive stress
- Medical Complications
  - Heart, lungs, spleen, gall bladder and thyroid
  - Absence of mechanical findings

Treatment

- Goals
  - Decrease pain
  - Decrease inflammation
  - Education
  - Restore capsular mobility

- Optimizing treatment depends on recognition of the clinical stage at presentation because the condition progresses through a predictable sequence
  - Neviaser AS. et al. AJSM 2010
Modalities

• Gursel YK. et al. Phys Ther. 2004
  – Lack of efficacy when US compared to sham US in treating soft tissue disorders of the shoulder.

• Jewell DV. et al. Phys Ther. 2009
  – Iontophoresis, Phonophoresis, Ultrasound, or Massage reduced likelihood of improvement by 19% - 32%
Exercise Intervention: HEP

- Mao et al. 1997
  - HEP of AAROM: 30 minutes 3x/day
  - Significant gains with all motions
- Holmes et al. 1997
  - Case study showed good results using HEP and patient education
- O’Kane et al. 1999
  - 41 patients: HEP of stretching
  - Significant improvement still present at 25 month F/U
- Kivimaki J. et al. JSES. 2007
  - HEP compared to MUA & HEP
  - No difference at F/U (6 wks, 3, 6, 12 month)
    - Slight increase in ROM only

Exercise Intervention

- Miller et al. Orthopaedics.1996
  - 50 patients treated with “overaggressive” PT
  - Program consisted of 3 phases
  - Patients were monitored every 8 weeks
  - **Phase 1**
    - Rest, medication, sling use
  - **Phase 2**
    - Pendulum exercises and PROM
  - **Phase 3**
    - Stretching using wand and pulley
  - Average time of ROM return was 14 months (3-36+)
  - **No Control Group**
Exercise Intervention

• Diercks RL. & Stevens M. JSES. 2004
  – Intensive PT vs. Supervised Neglect
    • Intensive: Exercise to and beyond pain threshold
    • Neglect: No exercise beyond pain threshold
  – Both groups improved
    • Constant score > 80 @ 24 month F/U
      – Intensive: 63%
      – Neglect: 89%
  – Conclusion
    • Aggressive stretching beyond pain threshold could be detrimental, especially in early phase of condition

Exercise Intervention

• Griggs et al. JBJS, 2000
  – 75 patients with stage 2 adhesive capsulitis
  – Outcome Measures:
    • Pain, ROM, DASH, Simple Shoulder Test, SF-36
  – PT & HEP of passive stretching
    • Forward Flexion, ER, H-Add, IR
  – Follow-Up at 22 months
  – 90% had good outcomes with exercise program
    • Forward flexion ↑ 43°  ER ↑ 25°
    • IR ↑ 8 vertebral levels  H-Add ↑ 72°
Exercise Intervention

• Levine WN et al. *JSES*. 2007
  – Retrospective study: 98 patients (105 shoulders)
  – 89.5% resolved with non-op treatment
    • 17/19 diabetic shoulders resolved
  – Mean age non-op = 56 yo; surgery = 51 yo
  – Treatment:
    • NSAIDs (100%)
    • PT (89.5%)
      – PT without cortisone (52.4%)
      – PT with cortisone (37.1%)

Exercise Intervention

• Levine WN et al. *JSES*. 2007
  – Tests & Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial Exam</th>
<th>Discharge</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elevation</td>
<td>118° ± 22°</td>
<td>164° ± 17°</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Rotation</td>
<td>26° ± 16°</td>
<td>59° ± 18°</td>
<td>126%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  – Non-Op Treatment Duration:
    • Successful non-op: 3.8 months ±3.6 months
    • Surgical: 12.4 months ±12.1 months
Exercise Intervention

0° M/L Subscapularis

30° U/M/L Subscapularis

45° MGHL

90° IGHL

30° ABD Superior Posterior Capsule

30° ABD & Ext Inferior Posterior Capsule

90° Flexion Posterior Capsule
Exercise Intervention

Mobilization Interventions

  - Case Series of 7 patients
  - End-range mobilization techniques only
  - Significant improvement in AROM, PROM, pain and joint volume

- Vermeulen HM. et al. *Phys Ther.* 2006
  - High-grade vs. Low-grade mobilizations
  - 24 sessions over 12 wks & followed 12 mo
  - High grade group did better but few comparisons were statistically significant

  - Multiple-treatment trial using end-range, mid-range & MWM
  - End-range mobilizations & MWM more effective in increasing motion & functional mobility
Mobilization Interventions

- Johnson et al. JOSPT 2007
  - 20 patients with adhesive capsulitis
  - ER worsened with shoulder abduction
    - Implicates capsule vs. muscle restriction
  - Two treatment groups that received 6 sessions of US, Joint mobilization and UBE
    - Group 1: Posterior glide (grade 3 1 min hold x15 minutes)
    - Group 2: Anterior glide (grade 3 1 min hold x 15 minutes)
  - ER measured at initial exam and post each session
    - Anterior Group
      - Mean improvement of 3°
    - Posterior Group
      - Mean improvement of 31.3°

Mobilization Interventions

- 34 subjects: 11 control; 23 randomized to standard PT or EMSMTA
  - Rx 2x/week for 12 weeks
  - 8 week F/U
    - EMSMTA significant improvements in ROM and Disability score compared to standard PT and control
Mobilization Interventions

- Techniques
  - Distraction
  - Anterior
  - Posterior
  - Inferior
- Combined Movements
  - Anterior-Inferior
    - Limited ER
    - Add ER to take up slack
  - Posterior-Inferior
    - Limited IR
    - Add IR to take up slack

Mobilization Interventions

- Lewis J Manual Therapy 2015

- Anterior / Posterior

- Inferior
Mobilization Interventions

**Clinical Practice Guidelines**

**Shoulder Pain and Mobility Deficits: Adhesive Capsulitis**

**INTERVENTION – JOINT MOBILIZATION:** Clinicians may utilize joint mobilization procedures primarily directed to the glenohumeral joint to reduce pain and increase motion and function in patients with adhesive capsulitis. (Recommendation based on weak evidence.)

Inferior Glenohumeral
Inferior-Posterior Glenohumeral

Inferior-Anterior Glenohumeral

continued
Posterior Glenohumeral

Inferior Glenohumeral MWM
Scapular Assist MWM

Corticosteroid Injection

• Reduce pain and muscle guarding

• Faster initial relief of symptoms
  – van der Windt DA. et al. BMJ. 1998

• Improved pain and ROM in initial 4 weeks
Corticosteroid Injection

  - Randomized prospective study (n = 90)
  - Compared 4 groups
    - Intra-articular corticosteroid injection with HEP
    - Intra-articular corticosteroid injection with HEP and PT
    - Intra-articular saline injection with PT
    - Intra-articular saline injection with HEP
  - 6 Weeks
    - Largest change in SPADI seen in corticosteroid groups
  - 6 Months
    - SPADI scores similar across groups
    - A/PROM better in corticosteroid-PT-HEP group
  - 12 Months
    - No differences

Corticosteroid Injection

- Timing plays a role
  - Ryans I et al. *Rheumatology* 2005
    - 6 Weeks:
      - Intraarticular injection groups significantly improved compared to therapy groups
    - 16 Weeks:
      - All groups improved; no differences between groups
    - 2 Weeks:
      - Injection group showed significant improvement
    - 12 Weeks
      - Significant improvement in all groups; no differences

CONTINUED
Corticosteroid Injection

  - Associated with (+) anesthetic response following intra-articular corticosteroid injection
    - End range pain in all directions
    - Global loss of PROM
    - Global loss of passive GHJ mobility

Corticosteroid Injection

**Clinical Practice Guidelines**

*Shoulder Pain and Mobility Deficits: Adhesive Capsulitis*

**Intervention - Corticosteroid Injections:** Intra-articular corticosteroid injections combined with shoulder mobility and stretching exercises are more effective in providing short-term (4-6 weeks) pain relief and improved function compared to shoulder mobility and stretching exercises alone. (Recommendation based on strong evidence.)
Manipulation Under Anesthesia

- General anesthesia / brachial plexus block
  - **Method**
    - Short lever arm force into abduction while stabilizing scapula followed by manipulation into ER and IR
    - 75% - 100% Success rate reported in literature
  - **Complications**
    - Fractures: glenoid, scapular, humeral
    - Dislocation
    - RC / labral tear
    - Hemarthrosis
    - Brachial plexus traction injury

Manipulation Under Anesthesia

- Loew M. et al. JSES 2005
  - **30 patients following MUA**
    - Intra-articular damage following procedure
      - Hemarthrosis in all 30 patients
      - Synovitis in area of rotator interval in 22 patients
      - Superior capsule rupture in 11 patients
      - Anterior capsule rupture in 24 patients
      - Posterior capsule lesions in 16 patients
      - SLAP lesions in 4 patients
      - Subscapularis tear in 3 patients
      - Anterior labral detachment in 4 patients
      - MGHL torn in 2 patients

Manipulation Under Anesthesia **NOT** a benign procedure
Mobilization Under Anesthesia

• Roubal et al. JOSPT. 1996
  – 8 subjects received interscalene brachial plexus block followed by inferior and posterior glide manipulation
  – Gains with all motions
    • Flexion ↑ by 68°
    • Abduction ↑ by 77°
    • ER ↑ by 49°
    • IR ↑ by 45°

Manipulation Under Anesthesia

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Shoulder Pain and Mobility Deficits: Adhesive Capsulitis

INTERVENTION – TRANSLATIONAL MANIPULATION: Clinicians may utilize translational manipulation under anesthesia directed to the glenohumeral joint in patients with adhesive capsulitis who are not responding to conservative interventions. (Recommendation based on weak evidence.)
Treatment

• Kelley MJ et al. JOSPT 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 4</th>
<th>TREATMENT STRATEGIES BASED ON IRRITABILITY LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Irritability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modalities</strong></td>
<td>Heat/ice/Mechanical stimulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actively modified</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROM/mobility</strong></td>
<td>Short-duration (1-5 s), pain-free, passive AAROM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manual techniques</strong></td>
<td>Low-grade mobilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strenuousness</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Functional activities</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient education</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: AAROM, active-assisted range of motion; AROM, active range of motion.

Treatment

• Stage I: Pre-Adhesive Stage
  – Synovial inflammation
  
  – Minimal or no loss of mobility
  
  – Interventions:
    • Maintain mobility
      – Early & frequent light motion exercises
    • Mid-Range submaximal isometrics
Treatment

- Stage II: Acute adhesive Stage/Freezing Stage
  - Synovitis & Early adhesions
  - Interventions:
    - Patient Education: Should not be aggressive
      - Explain pathophysiology
    - Consider injection
    - Pendulum exercises
    - AAROM
    - Sustained light stretches
    - Grade I-II mobilizations & distraction
    - Mid-range submaximal isometrics for RC and scapular musculature (**With Caution**)
    - HEP is critical: frequent short bouts of exercise

Treatment

- Stage III: Maturation / Fibrotic Stage / Frozen Stage
  - Loss of axillary fold
  - Decreased synovitis
  - Interventions:
    - Active warm-up
    - AAROM exercises
    - Inferior capsule stretches
    - Low load long duration (LLLD) stretches
      - Rotator cuff interval
    - Moist heat (Lentell: JOSPT 1992)
    - Grade III-IV mobilizations (single-plane)
    - End-range submaximal isometrics
Posterior Glenohumeral

- Force is posterolateral due to orientation of glenoid

Treatment

- Stage IV: Chronic Adhesive Stage / Thawing Phase
  - Mature adhesions and motion restriction
  - Capsular end feel
  - Interventions:
    - Active warm-up
    - Prolonged LLLD stretches (Moist heat)
    - Aggressive grade IV joint mobilizations (multi-plane)
    - Strengthening in new ROM
Inferior-Posterior Glenohumeral

[Image of a therapist performing a treatment on a patient lying on a table]

Inferior-Posterior Glenohumeral

[Image of anatomical diagrams showing the movement of the shoulder joint]

continued
Inferior Glenohumeral MWM

Scapular Assist MWM

continued
Surgical Management

- Arthroscopic Capsular Release
  - Minimum 6 months conservative treatment
  - Berghs BM, et al. JSES. 2004
    - Released RC interval and coracohumeral ligament
    - 25 patients had good results (mean f/u 14.8 mo)
  - Additional portions of CLC released
    - SGHL, MGHL, IGHL
    - Posterior capsule
  - Post-Op Management
    - CPM (Ide J, & Takagi K. JSES. 2004)
    - Daily PT (Watson L. et al. JSES. 2000)

Outcome Predictors

- Rill BK. et al. AJSM 2011
  - Shorter duration of symptoms predicted a higher final American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons Score (ASES) score
  - Following Non-Op treatment
    - Patients with diabetes had lower final SST
  - Ultimate surgical intervention
    - Younger patients
    - Lower initial SST
  - Multimodal non-operative treatment program is effective in most patients with adhesive capsulitis
  - Patients who do not improve, including those with diabetes, respond well to manipulation and arthroscopic release
Patient Case: Adhesive Capsulitis

Case 1

• 53 yo woman with insidious onset of right shoulder pain in April 2016.
• No change in symptoms with physical therapy
  – Primarily strengthening per patient
• No change in symptoms s/p subacromial cortisone injection
• Referred for second opinion August 2016
Case 1

• Subjective report:
  – C/O constant pain right shoulder as well as intermittent right upper arm pain
  – Current: 7/10, Best: 7/10, Worst: 10/10
  – Intensifiers
    • Raising arm overhead
    • Wakes at night with pain
  – Nullifiers
    • Diminishes at rest but never without pain

Case 1

• History
  – PMH is non-contributory
  – Sedentary occupation
  – Pt reports pain is significantly impacting quality of life
  – Goals: “To have normal use of right arm”
Case 1

• Tests & Measures
  – Posture:
    • FHP, Forward shoulders, Increased thoracic kyphosis, Maintains right UE in guarded position
  – PROM:
    • Supine scaption: 100° with marked pain & guarding
    • Supine ER @ 30° Abduction: 20° with marked pain and guarding
    • Supine IR @ 30° Abduction: 45° with marked pain and guarding

Case 1

• Tests & Measures
  – Palpation
    • Marked pain along right GH and AC joint lines
  – Joint Mobility
    • Unable to assess due to pain
  – Muscle Length
    • Unable to assess due to pain
  – Muscle Performance
    • Unable to assess due to pain
  – Special Tests
    • Unable to assess due to pain
Case 1

• Outcome Measurement
  – DASH
    • 63% Disability Overall
    • 44% Disability on work module
• MRI
  – IMPRESSION: Bursal surface fraying and tearing of the supraspinatus tendon associated with tendinopathy and edema at the myotendinous junction. Mild tendinopathy in the infraspinatus and subscapularis tendons.

Case 1

• Clinical Impression
  – Pt is a 53 yo female with signs and symptoms consistent with right adhesive capsulitis that is further complicated by fear avoidance behavior
Case 1

• What are your thoughts on reactivity?
  – Mild / Moderate / Marked

• What are your thoughts on stage of adhesive capsulitis?
  – Pre-Adhesive
  – Acute Adhesive / Freezing Stage
  – Maturation / Fibrotic / Frozen Stage
  – Chronic Adhesive / Thawing Stage

Case 1

• What would you do for treatment?
Case 1

- Treatment Progression
  - Intra-articular cortisone injection under fluoroscopic guidance on 8/10/16
    • Significant reduction in pain to 0/10 at rest and 3/10 with activity
  - Postural re-education
  - Progressive ROM activity including mobilization
  - Strength in new ROM

Case 1

- Outcome
  - Discharged to HEP in 11/2016
  - Full A-PROM in all planes
  - Gross strength RC and Scapular musculature 4+/5
  - DASH: 10% Disability
Thank You

Remember:
It is a marathon...... not a sprint

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