Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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Exercises after Burn Injury to your Elbow

After a burn injury to your elbow, your skin will tighten in an attempt to close and heal the wounds as quickly as possible. During this process it is common for skin contractures (tissue shortening) to develop. Your skin may become tight and this is likely to affect your ability to perform daily activities with your elbow such as holding, carrying, reaching for and manipulating objects.

The exercises provided will help to improve the strength of your elbow muscles and stretch the skin around your elbow. This will help prevent skin contractures, reduce skin tightness and restore full movement in your elbow. It is recommended that you perform these exercises regularly throughout the day - Every hour is ideal but a minimum of 4 to 5 sessions throughout the day.

□ Elbow Flexion	□ Elbow Extension	□ Supination
 Sit with arm out straight beside body. Bend elbow to take palm and fingers towards your shoulder. Hold for 1 minute and then straighten. 	Straighten your elbow fully and hold for 1 minute. You can do this with your arm in front of your body or by your side.	 Sit with your arm by your side and palm facing downwards. Turn you palm upwards to the ceiling and hold for 1 minute. If you need help you can hold onto a bottle or hammer etc and let the weight of the object stretch your arm over until your palm is facing upwards
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute

□ Triceps Stretch		Weight Bearing Stretch	□ Wall Push Up		
	1)				
 With one arm bent behind your head, place the other hand on your elbow and stretch further. Hold for 1 minute 	t f f v s s v t t a a f f k s s	1) Place hands on the bed or cable top with fingers facing forward. Lean forward and put weight through your hands to stretch your wrist and straighten your elbows. Hold for 1 minute 2) With palms of hands still on the table top, turn your arms around so that your wrists face forward and your fingers face backwards. Keep your elbow straight. Hold this position for 1 minute.	Stand with your hands flat against the wall at shoulder level. Bend your elbows to let your head come close to the wall as if doing a mini push up. Now straighten your elbows out fully.		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 1	0 times holding for 1 minute	Do :	3 sets of 10 repetitions	
☐ 4 Point Kneel Press Ups		Wall Elbow Extension		Elbow & Wrist Combined 1	
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➤ Rest on your hands and knees and straighten elbows as much as possible. Now bend your elbows and lower your body down towards the bed. Return to starting position with a push up.	S F	Place one hand on the wall at shoulder height with elbow bent. Fully straighten elbow while keeping palm flat on wall. Hold for 1 minute.	Place one arm out in front of you with elbow straight. Use the other hand to help stretch your hand backwards and hold for 1 minute		
Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 10	O times holding for 1 minute	Do	10 times holding for 1 minute	

☐ Elbow & Wrist Combined 2	☐ Triceps Strength in Prone	☐ Mini Push Ups		
Place one arm out in front of you with elbow straight. Use the other hand to help stretch your hand forwards and hold for 1 minute	 Lie on stomach with your arm over the edge of the bed, weight in your hand. Straighten your elbow and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly lower to starting position. Progress this exercise by increasing the weight or increasing the number of repetitions. 	Lie on your stomach with your hands under your shoulders. Lift your head and shoulders off the bed by straightening your elbows and extending your back. Hold for 10 seconds then lower slowly to the bed		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		
☐ Prone Resting on Elbows	☐ Elbow Extension behind back	☐ Elbow Extension with weight		
 Lie on your stomach resting on your elbows. Hold this position for 1 minute. You can progress this exercise by bending your elbows further underneath you or bending your elbow to put your hand under your chin. 	Stand with your arms clasped behind your back, straighten your elbows fully and hold for 1 minute.	Lie on your back with a weight in your hand. Let your elbow straighten over the edge of the bed with the weight		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute or use as a resting position for 20 minutes	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute or use as a resting position for 20 minutes		

□ Biceps Curls	□ Triceps Curls	□ Elbow Press
	1) Above head 2) In front of body	1) Upward 2) Forward
 Sit or stand holding weight in hand with elbow straight. Bend elbow up and hold for 5 seconds. Now slowly lower out straight. Progress this exercise by increasing the weight or increasing the number of repetitions 	 1) Above Head – Hold arm up above your head close to your ear, elbow bent holding weight behind your head. Now straighten your elbow and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly lower to starting position 2) In front of body – Hold arm up in front of you with your shoulder at 90 degrees, elbow bent holding weight. Straighten your elbow out in front of body and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly return to starting position. Progress this exercise by increasing the weight or increasing the number of repetitions 	 1) Upward – Start with weights in both hands, elbows bent, hands near shoulders. Now straighten both elbows upward into the air above your head and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly return to starting position 2) Forward – Start with weights in both hands, elbows bent, hands near shoulders. Now straighten both elbows forward in front of body and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly return to starting position. Progress this exercise by increasing the weight or increasing the number of repetitions
Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions

☐ Doorway Elbow Stretch Low	☐ Doorway Elbow Stretch High	□ Elbow Stretch over Ball		
Hold onto door frame and straighten your elbows by stepping through the doorway.	Stretch arms with elbows straight high above head on door frame. Lunge through doorway to stretch arms.	Lie on your back over therapy ball and stretch elbow out straight. You can use a weight in your hand to help stretch the elbow straight.		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		
☐ Rolling ball up wall or along bed	☐ Theraband Triceps Upwards	☐ Theraband Triceps Forwards		
➤ Lying flat on tummy or standing facing a wall. Start with one arm — elbow bent, with hand on ball near shoulder. Roll the ball up the wall or along bed to stretch elbow out straight. Hold for 1 minute.	Start by standing with theraband wrapped around feet and holding the ends in both hands. Now straighten elbows to lift hands up into the air. Hold for 5 seconds and slowly lower to starting position.	Start by standing with theraband wrapped around behind your trunk and holding the ends in both hands. Now straighten elbows to take hands forward in front of body. Hold for 5 seconds and slowly lower to starting position.		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions		

Keep score of how often you complete these exercises (Copy this page and use a new sheet every week)

Exercise	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Elbow Flexion							
Elbow Extension							
Supination							
Triceps Stretch							
Weight Bearing Stretch							
Wall Push Up							
4 Pt Kneel Press Ups							
Wall Elbow Extension							
Elbow & Wrist Combined 1							
Elbow & Wrist Combined 2							
Triceps Strength in Prone							
Mini Push Ups							
Prone Resting on Elbows							
Elbow Extension Behind Back							
Elbow Extension with weight							
Biceps Curls							
Triceps Curls							
Elbow Press							
Doorway Elbow Stretch Low							
Doorway Elbow Stretch High							
Elbow Stretch Over Ball							
Rolling ball up wall or along bed							
Theraband Triceps Upwards							
Theraband Triceps Forwards							