Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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Exercises after Burn Injury to your Foot and Ankle

After a burn injury to your foot and ankle, 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 foot and ankle such as walking, running, squatting and may also affect your balance.

The exercises provided will help to improve the strength of your foot & ankle muscles and also stretch the skin on your foot and ankle. This will help prevent skin contractures, reduce skin tightness and restore full movement at your foot and ankle. 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**.

Ankle Upwards (Dorsiflex)	□ Ankle Downwards (Plantarflex)	□ Ankle in and out (Lateral)		
 Bend your ankle and pull your foot backwards towards your head. Hold for 1 minute. Do this on each leg 	 Point your toes and ankle down as far as you can. Hold for 1 minute Do this on each leg 	 Move ankle up and outwards. Hold for 1 minute Now move ankle inwards and hold for 1 minute. Do this on each leg. 		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		
Ankle Circles	□ Ankle Alphabet	□ Toe Raise in Sitting		
Slowly rotate ankle around in a circle clockwise gradually making circles bigger and bigger. Now change and make the circles anticlockwise.	 Draw all the letters of the alphabet with your ankle. Do this on each leg 	 Sit on a chair, keep heels on the floor and lift toes up as far as you can. Hold for 20 – 30 seconds. Do this on both legs 		
Do this on each leg		Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions		
Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do the entire alphabet	Do 3 sets of to repetitions		

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Heel Raise in Sitting	□ Calf Stretch in Sitting	Calf Stretch (Straight Knee)		
		A A A		
 Sit on a chair, lift heels up as far as you can to push foot up onto toes. Hold for 20 -30 seconds. Do this on both legs 	 Sit with your knee straight and a towel looped around your foot. Gently pull on towel to lift your foot backwards as far as possible. You should feel a stretch in the calf. Hold for 1 minute. Do this on each leg 	Lean with your hands on the wall, place your right foot behind your left. Keep your heels on the floor, your back knee straight and your toes facing forward. Now bend your front knee and lean forward to feel a stretch in your back leg. Hold for 1 minute.		
		Do this on each leg		
Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute Do 10 times holding for 1 m			
□ Calf Stretch (Bent Knee)	Mini Squats	□ Lowering over edge of step		
 Lean with your hands on the wall, place your right foot behind your left. Keep your heels on the floor and your toes facing forward. Lean forward and allow your back knee to bend until you feel a stretch at the back of your ankle. Hold for 1 minute. 	Stand holding onto the back of a chair. Keep weight evenly distributed on both feet, gently squat down as far as you can. Make sure you keep your knees directly over your second toe as you squat. Hold for 5 seconds	Stand on a low step with just the front part of your foot. Your heels should be hanging over the edge of the step. Let your heels sink down and stretch behind your ankle. Hold for 1 minute		
Do this on each leg				
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		

Heel Raises in Standing	□ Toe Raises in Standing	□ Stepping down from step		
1)				
 1) Whilst standing, keep weight evenly distributed on both feet, lift heels up as far as you can to push foot up onto toes. Hold for 20 seconds. Try walking around on your toes. 2) To make this exercise harder 	Whilst standing, keep heels on the floor and lift toes up as far as you can. Hold for 20 seconds. Try walking around on your heels	Start by standing on a step, slowly lower right foot to the ground but concentrating on slowly bending the back knee and keeping your heel down as long as possible while you do this. Also keep your hips steady and controlled during the exercise		
try raises on one foot at a time		Do the step downs with both legs		
Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions		
Balance on one Leg	Toe Curls	Assisted Toe Movements		
		(Josef)		
 Stand on one leg with your eyes open. Time how long you can stand here without overbalancing. Now try with your eyes closed. You can make this exercise harder by standing on different surfaces eg on a pillow, on uneven ground outside, on the sand / gravel. 	Curl or crunch your toes as if you were trying to pick something off the floor eg towel, pencil, tissue	Use your hands to curl your toes under as far as you can. Try to do this while your ankle is also pointed down to get an extra stretch. Hold for 1 minute		

Ankle & Toe Stretch (Sitting)	□ Ankle & Toe Stretch (Kneel)	□ Ankle & Toe Stretch (4pt Kneel)		
 Sit with your right leg crossed over your knee. Use your hand to stretch your ankle and toes downward as far as possible. Hold for 1 minute. Do this with other leg 	Start in kneeling position (on two legs or if more comfortable just on one leg) Gently rock your bottom back onto your heels to give a stretch to your knee, ankles and toes and hold for 1 minute	Resting on your hands and knees with toes pointed. Gently rock your bottom back onto your heels to give a stretch to your knees, ankles and toes and hold for 1 minute.		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		

Exercise	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Ankle Upwards (Dorsiflex)							
Ankle Downwards (Plantarflex)							
Ankle In and Out (Lateral)							
Ankle Circles							
Ankle Alphabet							
Toe Raise in Sitting							
Heel Raise in Sitting							
Calf Stretch in Sitting							
Calf Stretch (Straight Knee)							
Calf Stretch (Bent Knee)							
Mini Squats							
Lowering over edge of step							
Heel Raises in Standing							
Toe Raises in Standing							
Stepping Down from Step							
Balance on One Leg							
Toe Curls							
Assisted Toe Movements							
Ankle & Toe Stretch (Sitting)							
Ankle & Toe Stretch (Kneel)							
Ankle & Toe Stretch (4 Pt Kneel)							

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