Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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Exercises after Burn Injury to your Knee

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

The exercises provided will help to improve the strength of your knee muscles and also stretch the skin around your knee. This will help prevent skin contractures, reduce skin tightness and restore full movement at your knee. 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.

☐ Knee Flexion	☐ Knee Extension	☐ Hamstring Stretch		
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 Lie on back. Bend one knee up as far as you can. Hold for 1 minute. Do this on each leg Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	 Sitting in a chair. Straighten your knee and hold it in the air for 5 seconds. To make this exercise harder use a light weight around your ankle or use theraband provided by your physiotherapist. Do this on each leg Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	 1) Standing up, place one foot on a stool. Slowly lean forward keeping back straight until a stretch is felt behind your knee and the back of your thigh. Hold for 1 minute. Do this on each leg. 2) You can do the same stretch sitting with your legs stretched out straight in front 		
Do to times notating for a minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		

☐ Calf Stretch (Straight Knee)	☐ Sit to stand practice ☐ Lunging onto step			
Dan Stretch (Straight Knee)	☐ Sit to stand practice	☐ Lunging onto step		
 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 	 Start by bending your knees as far as you can under the chair. Now keep weight evenly distributed on both feet and push forward to stand up. Now slowly lower back into the chair keeping your feet still and letting your knees bend as much as you can. 	 Step one foot up onto step and lunge forward keeping control of your front knee. Aim to keep your knee over your second toe. Also control your hips while doing this exercise. Hold for 20 seconds. Do this on each leg. 		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions		
20 To times holding for 1 minute	Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions	Do o sets of to repetitions		
☐ Stepping down from step	☐ Mini Squats	□ Wall Squats		
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□ Full Squats	☐ End of Range Knee Bend	☐ Knee Bend in Kneeling		
 Squat down as low as you can but ensure knees are pointing over your second toe. Try with your heels off the ground then try keeping your heels flat on the ground Do 3 sets of 10 repetitions 	 Bend foot up towards your bottom and hold for 1 minute. You can either do this exercise lying on your stomach or standing up holding onto a bench or the back of a chair. Do this on each leg Do 10 times holding for 1 minute 	 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 and ankles. Hold for 1 minute. Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		
☐ Knee Bend in 4 pt kneel	□ Knee Stretch (Prone)	□ Exercise Bike		
 Resting on your hands and knees with toes pointed. Gently rock your bottom back onto your heels to give a stretch to your knees and ankles. Hold for 1 minute. Do 10 times holding for 1 minute 	 Lie on your stomach with your knees straight and your feet over the edge of the bed. You can use a weight around your ankles to help your knees stretch out fully straight Resting position for up to 20min 	 If you have an exercise bike at home this is a good general exercise to get your knees moving as well as improve your endurance. Try to start at 2-3 minutes and progress the time. 		

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
Knee Flexion							
Knee Extension							
Hamstring Stretch							
Calf Stretch (Straight Knee)							
Sit to Stand Practice							
Lunging onto step							
Stepping down from							
step							
Mini Squats							
Wall Squats							
Full Squats							
End of Range Knee							
Bend							
Knee Bend in							
Kneeling							
Knee Bend in 4 pt kneel							
Knee Stretch (Prone)							
Exercise Bike							