

Patient Optimization: Prehab

Jordan Brandon PT, DPT
Clinic Director
ATI Physical Therapy



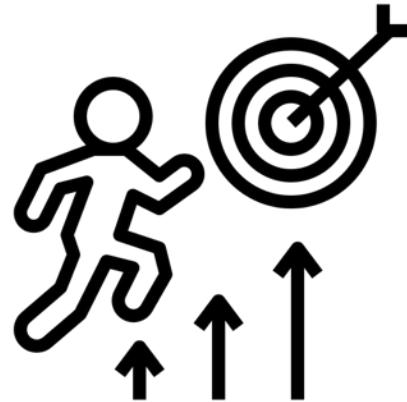
Disclosures:

I have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

Patient Optimization



Patient Satisfaction



Outcome Measures



Cost Savings



PREHABILITATION

What is Prehabilitation?

“Prehabilitation is an individualized plan that proactively addresses a patient’s specific physical and psychosocial needs before surgery to enhance post-operative recovery (Punnoose et al., 2023)

Component	Modality/Activity	Suggested Frequency/Duration
Muscular Strengthening	Resistance training/BFR	2-4x/week, at least 4 weeks ^{3,4}
Aerobic Conditioning	Walking, stationary cycling, aquatic	3x/week ⁵
Flexibility/ROM	Joint-specific stretching	Daily ⁶
Neuromuscular/Balance	Proprioceptive and gait work	2-3x/week ⁷
Nutrition	Assessment, supplementation	At intake, then as indicated ²
Psychology	Anxiety/depression screening/support	At intake, targeted intervention ²
Education	Preoperative planning, expectations	Once + reinforcement ⁸

Target Demographic

Who benefits most?

- Total Knee Arthroplasty⁹
- Total Hip Arthroplasty^{8,10}
- Lumbar spine surgery¹¹
- ACL reconstruction¹²⁻¹⁴
- Rotator cuff repair
- Meniscus repair
- MPFL

Additional benefit

High-risk patients:
frail, elderly,
malnourished,
sarcopenic, or with
existing functional
deficits¹

Dose

2+ sessions/week for ≥4 weeks¹



Is Prehab Effective?

Key Evidence Supporting Prehabilitation

Surgery Type	Statistically Significant Outcomes
Lumbar Surgery	↓ pre-op back pain, ↑ function at 6 mo post-op ¹¹
Total Knee Replacement (TKR)	↑ pre-op function, ↑ function at 6 mo post-op, ↑ knee flexor strength, ↑ 6-min walk test ^{9, 18}
Total Hip Replacement (THR)	↑ HRQOL , ↑ hip abductor strength ^{8, 10}
ACL reconstruction	↑ pre-op quad strength, ↑ extension ROM, ↑ IKDC/KOOS, earlier return-to-run ¹²⁻¹⁴

Blood Flow Restriction Therapy (BFRT)

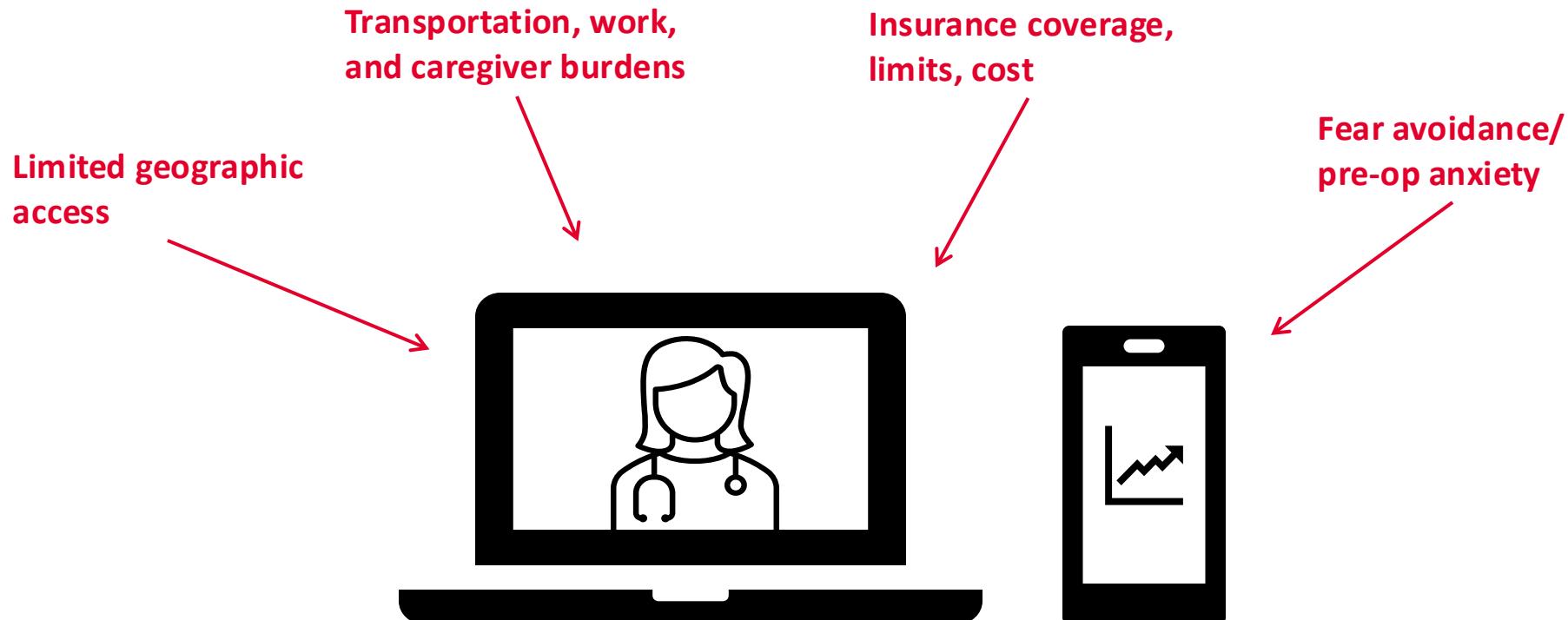
BFRT in Surgical Prehabilitation

Measure	BFRT + Prehab	Traditional Prehab	Key Research Outcomes
Quadriceps muscle strength	↑↑	↑	Improved isometric endurance, hypertrophy ^{3,4}
Pain during exercise	↓	—	Less pain vs. standard low-load exercises ³
Muscle mass preservation	↑	—	Reduced post-op atrophy, esp. in TKA, ACL ⁴
Functional recovery	↑	—	Early restoration, expedited return ^{3,4}



Kintsugipt.com

Barriers to Prehab Access

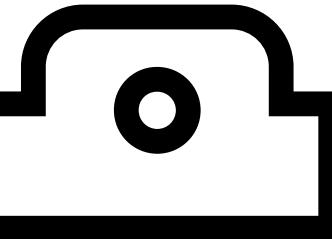


Telehealth + Remote Therapeutic Monitoring (RTM)

Prehabilitation Checklist



Prehab adds value to the patient experience



- Elective orthopedic surgery scheduled with ≥ 2 weeks lead time
- 2+ co-morbidities that \downarrow post-op outcomes
- Seeking accelerated return to sport
- Fear avoidance behavior

**Prehab is appropriate if
ANY criterion apply**

References

1. Punnoose A, Claydon-Mueller LS, Weiss O, Zhang J, Rushton A, Khanduja V. Prehabilitation for patients undergoing orthopedic surgery: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2023;6(4):e238050. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.8050
2. Santa Mina D, Clarke H, Ritvo P, et al. Effect of total-body prehabilitation on postoperative outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Phys Ther.* 2014;94(12):1790–1805. doi:10.2522/pjtj.20130596
3. Hughes L, Paton B, Rosenblatt B, et al. Blood flow restriction training in clinical musculoskeletal rehabilitation: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br J Sports Med.* 2017;51(13):1003–1011. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2016-097071
4. Ladlow P, Coppack R, Dham-Datta S, et al. Low-load resistance training with blood flow restriction improves clinical outcomes in musculoskeletal rehabilitation: a pilot study. *Clin Rehabil.* 2018;32(4):479–487. doi:10.1177/0269215517735680
5. Topp R, Ditmyer M, King K, Doherty K, Hornyak J. The effect of bed rest and potential of prehabilitation on patients in the intensive care unit. *Crit Care Nurs Q.* 2002;25(2):57–67. doi:10.1097/00002727-200202000-00008
6. Hoogeboom TJ, Dronkers JJ, Hulzebos EH, van Meeteren NL. Preoperative therapeutic exercise in frail elderly patients undergoing elective surgery: a systematic review. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil.* 2014;95(9):1695–1705. doi:10.1016/j.apmr.2014.04.017
7. Hoogeboom TJ, van den Ende CH, van der Sluis G, et al. The impact of preoperative exercise therapy on postoperative outcome: a systematic review. *Clin Rehabil.* 2009;23(11):970–986. doi:10.1177/0269215509342328
8. Moyer R, Ikert K, Long K, Marsh J. The value of preoperative exercise and education for patients undergoing total hip and knee arthroplasty: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JBJS Rev.* 2017;5(12):e2. doi:10.2106/JBJS.RVW.17.00015
9. Wang L, Lee M, Zhang Z, Moodie J, Cheng D. Prehabilitation for patients undergoing total knee arthroplasty: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Open.* 2016;6(2):e010712. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2015-010712
10. Nielsen PR, Andreasen J, Asklund C, Andersen LL, Kehlet H. Effect of preoperative exercise therapy on postoperative outcomes in patients undergoing hip replacement: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Surg.* 2014;149(2):130–137. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2013.3097
11. Oliveira LA, Vitalle JA, Sachdeva JS, et al. Effects of prehabilitation on outcomes following elective lumbar spine surgery: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br J Pain.* 2025;19(4):257–273. doi:10.1177/20494637251323175
12. Ardem CL, Österberg A, Tagesson S, Gauffin H, Webster KE, Kvist J. The impact of preoperative knee function on post-operative outcomes following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. *Am J Sports Med.* 2011;39(12):2827–2835. doi:10.1177/0363546511423383
13. Giesche F, Niederer D, Banzer W, Vogt L. Evidence for the effects of prehabilitation before ACL reconstruction on return to sport-related and self-reported knee function: a systematic review. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(10):e0240192. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0240192
14. Carter HM, Littlewood C, Webster KE, Smith BE. The effectiveness of preoperative rehabilitation programmes on postoperative outcomes following ACL reconstruction: a systematic review. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord.* 2020;21(1):647. doi:10.1186/s12891-020-03676-6
15. Gometz A, Maislen D, Youtz C, et al. Prehabilitation in elective spine surgery: a systematic review. *Global Spine J.* 2018;8(7):744–749. doi:10.1177/2192568217745518
16. Pastora-Bernal JM, Martín-Valero R, Barón-López FJ, Estebanez-Pérez MJ. Evidence of Benefit of Telerehabilitation After Orthopedic Surgery: A Systematic Review. *J Med Internet Res.* 2020;22(4):e16417. doi:10.2196/16417
17. Russell TG, Buttrum P, Wootton R, Jull GA. Internet-based outpatient telerehabilitation for patients following total knee arthroplasty: a randomized controlled trial. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 2011;93(2):113–120. doi:10.2106/JBJS.I.01375
18. Topp R, Swank AM, Quesada PM, Nyland J, Malkani A. The effect of prehabilitation exercise on strength and functioning after total knee arthroplasty. *PM R.* 2009;1(8):729–735. doi:10.1016/j.pmrj.2009.06.003