

improve, not by how many days or weeks it has been since you started having symptoms. In general, the longer you have symptoms before treatment, the longer it will take to get better.

It is important that your sport or activity does not worsen your symptoms. You may need to make modifications such as reducing repetitive activities or changing your posture or technique.

If you have had surgery your provider will give you specific instructions about return to activity.

How can I prevent thoracic outlet syndrome?

Thoracic outlet syndrome is best prevented by avoiding repetitive overhead activities, avoiding carrying heavy loads on your shoulders, and by having good posture.

THORACIC OUTLET SYNDROME REHABILITATION EXERCISES

1. SCALENE STRETCH: This stretches the neck muscles that attach to your ribs. Sitting in an upright position, clasp both hands behind your back, lower your left shoulder, and tilt your head toward the right. Hold this position for 15 to 30 seconds and then come back to the starting position. Lower your right shoulder and tilt your head toward the left until you feel a stretch. Hold for 15 to 30 seconds. Repeat 3 times on each side.



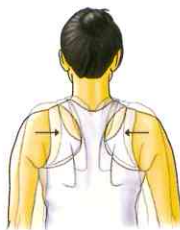
SCALENE STRETCH



2. PECTORALIS STRETCH: Stand in a doorway or corner with both arms on the wall slightly above your head. Slowly lean forward until you feel a stretch in the front of your shoulders. Hold 15 to 30 seconds. Repeat 3 times.

PECTORALIS STRETCH

3. SCAPULAR SQUEEZE: While sitting or standing with your arms by your sides, squeeze your shoulder blades together and hold for 5 seconds. Do 3 sets of 10.



SCAPULAR SQUEEZE

4. ARM SLIDE ON WALL: Sit or stand with your back against a wall and your elbows and wrists against the wall. Slowly slide your arms upward as high as you can while keeping your elbows and wrists against the wall. Do 3 sets of 10.

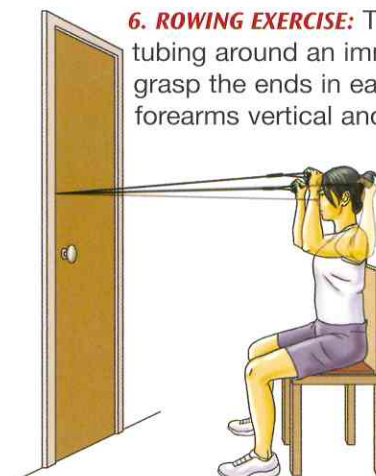


ARM SLIDE ON WALL



5. THORACIC EXTENSION: While sitting in a chair, clasp both arms behind your head. Gently arch backward and look up toward the ceiling. Repeat 10 times. Do this several times per day.

THORACIC EXTENSION



6. ROWING EXERCISE: Tie a piece of elastic tubing around an immovable object and grasp the ends in each hand. Keep your forearms vertical and your elbows at shoulder level and bent to 90 degrees. Pull backward on the band and squeeze your shoulder blades together. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets.

ROWING EXERCISE

7. MID-TRAP EXERCISE: Lie on your stomach on a firm surface and place a folded pillow underneath your chest. Place your arms out straight to your sides with your elbows straight and thumbs toward the ceiling. Slowly raise your arms toward the ceiling as you squeeze your shoulder blades together. Lower slowly. Do 3 sets of 15. Progress to holding soup cans or small weights in your hands.



MID-TRAP EXERCISE