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TABLE

RECOMMENDED EXERCISES FOR GLENOHUMERAL AND SCAPULOTHORACIC MUSCLES
BASED ON ANATOMICAL, BIOMECHANICAL, AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Muscle	Exercise	Anatomical Implications	Biomechanical Implications	Clinical Implications
Supraspinatus	1. Full can	1. Enhances scapular position and subacromial space	1. Decreased deltoid involvement compared to empty can	1. Minimizes chance of superior humeral head migration by deltoid overpowering supraspinatus
	2. Prone full can	2. Enhances scapular position and subacromial space	2. High posterior deltoid activity with similar supraspinatus activity	2. High supraspinatus activity and also good exercise for lower trapezius
Infraspinatus and teres minor	1. Side-lying ER	1. Position of shoulder stability, minimal capsular strain	1. Increased moment arm of muscle at 0° abduction. Greatest EMG activity	1. Most effective exercise in recruiting infraspinatus activity. Good when cautious with static stability
	2. Prone ER at 90° abduction	2. Challenging position for stability, higher capsular strain	2. High EMG activity	2. Strengthens in a challenging position for shoulder stability. Also good exercise for lower trapezius
	3. ER with towel roll	3. Allows for proper form without compensation	3. Increased EMG activity with addition of towel, also incorporates adductors	3. Enhances muscle recruitment and synergy with adductors
Subscapularis	1. IR at 0° abduction	1. Position of shoulder stability	1. Similar subscapularis activity between 0° and 90° abduction	1. Effective exercise, good when cautious with static stability
	2. IR at 90° abduction	2. Position of shoulder instability	2. Enhances scapular position and subacromial space. Less pectoralis activity	2. Strengthens in a challenging position for shoulder stability
	3. IR diagonal exercise	3. Replicates more functional activity	3. High EMG activity	3. Effective strengthening in a functional movement pattern
Serratus anterior	1. Push-up with plus	1. Easy position to produce resistance against protraction	1. High EMG activity	1. Effective exercise to provide resistance against protraction, also good exercise for subscapularis
	2. Dynamic hug	2. Performed below 90° abduction	2. High EMG activity	2. Easily perform in patients with difficulty elevating arms or performing push-up. Also good exercise for subscapularis
	3. Serratus punch 120°	3. Combines protraction with upward rotation	3. High EMG activity	3. Good dynamic activity to combine upward rotation and protraction function
Lower trapezius	1. Prone full can	1. Can properly align exercise with muscle fibers	1. High EMG activity	1. Effective exercise, also good exercise for supraspinatus
	2. Prone ER at 90° abduction	2. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	2. High EMG activity	2. Effective exercise, also good exercise for infraspinatus and teres minor
	3. Prone horizontal abduction at 90° abduction with ER	3. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	3. Good ratio of lower to upper trapezius activity	3. Effective exercise, also good exercise for middle trapezius
	4. Bilateral ER	4. Scapular control without arm elevation	4. Good ratio of lower to upper trapezius activity	4. Effective exercise, also good for infraspinatus and teres minor
Middle trapezius	1. Prone row	1. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	1. High EMG activity	1. Effective exercise, good ratios of upper, middle, and lower trapezius activity
	2. Prone horizontal abduction at 90° abduction with ER	2. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	2. High EMG activity	2. Effective exercise, also good exercise for lower trapezius
Upper trapezius	1. Shrug	1. Scapular control without arm elevation	1. High EMG activity	1. Effective exercise
	2. Prone row	2. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	2. High EMG activity	2. Good ratios of upper, middle, and lower trapezius activity
	3. Prone horizontal abduction at 90° abduction with ER	3. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	3. High EMG activity	3. Effective exercise, also good exercise for lower trapezius
Rhomboids and levator scapulae	1. Prone row	1. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	1. High EMG activity	1. Effective exercise, good ratios of upper, middle, and lower trapezius activity
	2. Prone horizontal abduction at 90° abduction with ER	2. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	2. High EMG activity	2. Effective exercise, also good for lower and middle trapezius
	3. Prone extension with ER	3. Prone exercise below 90° abduction	3. High EMG activity	3. Effective exercise, unique movement to enhance scapular control

Abbreviations: EMG, electromyography; ER, external rotation; IR, internal rotation.