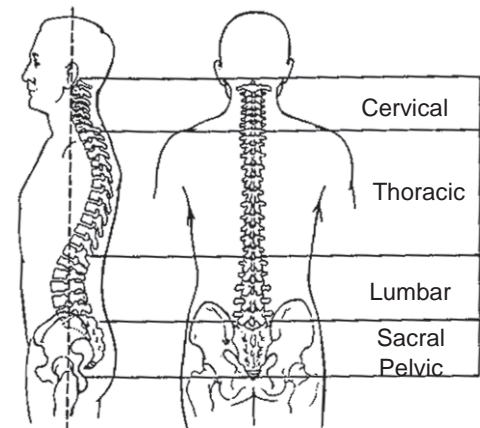


Posture Exercise Program

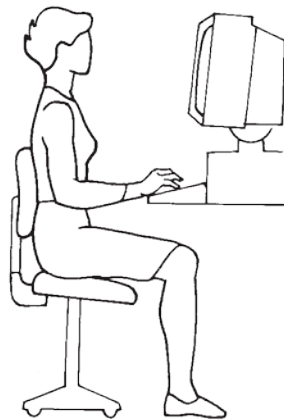
Proper posture is an important part of injury prevention. Your spine has four curves. The purpose of these curves is to make the spine as strong as possible as well as to absorb shock. When the curves are in proper alignment, your weight is supported by the bones and less stress is placed on the surrounding joints, ligaments and muscles. Loss of these “normal” curves due to poor sitting or standing posture or bad body mechanics can lead to injury. The following exercises will help you maintain proper alignment and protect you from injury.

4 Proper Curves



Proper Sitting Posture

- Head positioned
- Shoulder blades positioned
- Neutral pelvis
- Chair height to allow hips slightly higher than knees



Proper Standing Posture

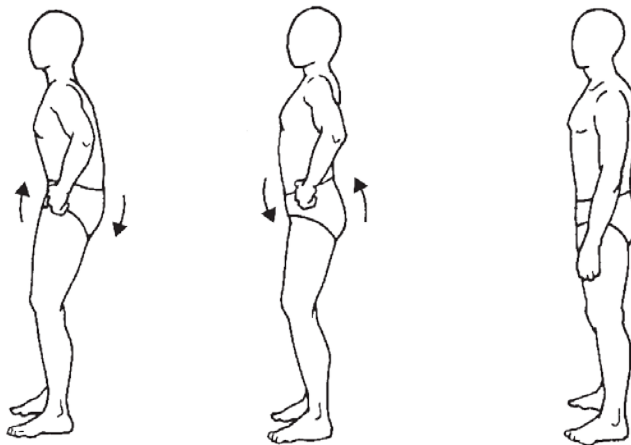


1. Finding your balanced position in sitting:

- A. Rock your pelvis backward so you are sitting on your tailbone, this causes your back to flatten.
- B. Now, rock your pelvis forward so your weight shifts forward to your thighs, causing your back to arch. Rock back and forth this way and stop when you feel you are midway between a flat back and an arched back.
- C. You should now be sitting in a neutral spine position. This can also be done standing.



This activity can also be done in standing



2. Shoulder Blade Clock

Sit or stand with your back in a neutral position. Imagine a clock on the side of your shoulder (see diagram). Move both shoulders up and forward to the 2 o'clock position, then move them straight back to the 11 o'clock position, then let shoulder blades drop to a down and back position at 7 o'clock. This is the correct shoulder blade position for proper posture.



3. Chin Tucks

Sit up tall with your spine in neutral position and your shoulder blades down and back, keeping your eyes and chin level. Pull your head back and up tall as if you were being pulled by a string from the top of your head. This is the correct head position for proper posture.



The above exercises allow the low back, shoulders, and head to be in proper alignment. Try to maintain this position while working on the job, at home, during sports, and during exercise. Try to maintain this position during the following postural exercises:

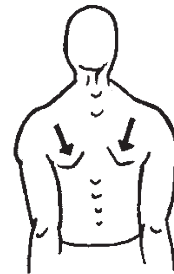
4. Shoulder Blade Posterior Depression

Pull your shoulder blades down and in toward your spine as if you were going to put them into your opposite back pockets. Hold for 5 seconds.

- Avoid shrugging your shoulders
- Arms should not pass behind the plane of the body

Begin _____ sets, _____ reps, _____ times/day

Progress to _____ sets, _____ reps, _____ times/day

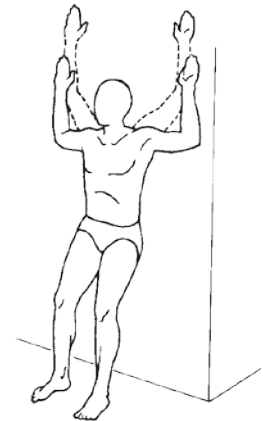


5. Arm Raise Against Wall

Standing with your back against the wall, feet hip width apart and 12 to 18 inches away from the wall, slide your arms up the wall, elbows bent, keeping the wrist and elbows in contact with the wall.

Hold the position _____ seconds, then lower your arms.

Repeat _____ times.

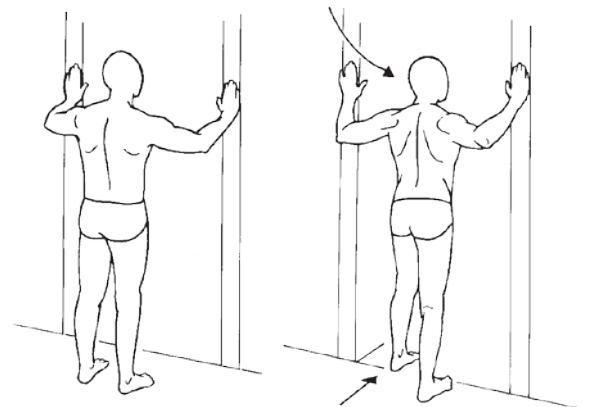


6. Pectoralis Stretch

Stand in a doorway with elbows at shoulder level. Take a small step forward into the doorway until you feel a stretch in the chest muscles.

Hold this stretch for 20 to 30 seconds, _____ times.

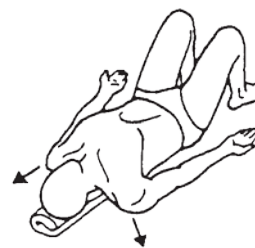
Raise arms 2 to 3 inches. Repeat stretch as above.
Raise arms another 2 to 3 inches. Repeat.



7. Towel / Foam Roll Stretch

Lie on a rolled towel or foam roll placed lengthwise down your spine. Position your shoulder blades in the down and back position. Rest your arms on the floor with your palms up.

Maintain this stretch for _____seconds / minutes



8. Scapular Strengthening

With theraband attached overhead, grasp each end with palms facing outward. Squeezing shoulder blades into the down and back position, bring elbows down toward your waist, keeping your hands over your elbows.

Hold _____seconds. Repeat _____times.

