

# Osteoarthritis

### Established osteoarthritis

## of the elbow

Exercises to maintain joint function



### exercise 1 **Elbow flexion**

### Why is this exercise useful?

 For recovering as much elbow flexion as possible.

### How do you do the exercise correctly?

- · In a sitting position facing a table, your elbow and hand the table.
- · Using the opposite hand, push the wrist to bend the elbow and bring your hand in contact with your shoulder of

If your elbow is painful, place it on a cushion rather

than directly on the table.

• TIP

- In a sitting position facing a table, your elbow is bent and (palm upwards) are placed on placed on a cushion and the palm of your hand is facing upwards.
- the same side.

• TIP

minutes.

exercise 2

flexion.

compensate.

correctly?

Elbow extension

For recovering full elbow

Why is this exercise useful?

Without this full extension, the

shoulder tends to overwork to

How do you do the exercise

Take a small bottle of water

elbow slowly open under the

weight of the bottle. Hold the

position for at least 10 to 15

in your hand and let your

Be careful not to raise the top of your shoulder and not take too heavy a weight at the start (you can gradually fill the bottle to make the exercise more difficult).



# @180

### exercise 3

### **Playing puppets**

### Why is this exercise useful?

 For regaining the ability of turning the palm of your hand to face upwards / downwards without moving your shoulder.

### How do you do the exercise correctly?

- In a sitting position, your elbow is bent and placed on a table (on a cushion for more comfort) and the palm of your hand is facing upwards.
- The other hand helps your "to play puppets" by rotating it without raising your shoulder.

# • TIP

Your hand is positioned at the wrist to perform the rotational movement.



### exercise 4

### Strengthening the biceps

### Why is this exercise useful?

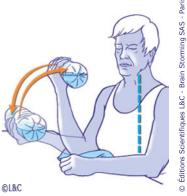
Facilitates elbow flexion thanks to the biceps.

### How do you do the exercise correctly?

- In a sitting position facing a table, your elbow is bent and placed on a cushion and the palm of your hand is facing upwards.
- Using a small bottle of water with a certain amount of water in it (the fuller the bottle the harder the exercise will be) move your arm away from your body as far and as slowly as possible; then bring it back to your body.
- Repeat several times in a pump-like motion.

### • TIP

Position the palm of your hand upwards.



### **DURATION OF EXERCISES**

Stretching movements: you can hold the position for several seconds (6-10), stopping if it becomes too painful.

Strengthening movements: you can perform sets

of five movements with a longer rest

(about twice as long as the duration of the movement). We also recommend that you change position between exercises (from one foot to the other, for example) in order to relax the muscles that have just been working.

### SOME SIMPLE RULES TO FOLLOW DURING THESE **EXERCISES**

- · Work at your own pace, calmly and steadily.
- · Breathe during the exercises.
- Do not force it and follow the pause time.
- Gradually increase the number of sets.

### **Authors**

### Dr Françoise LAROCHE

Rheumatologogist

Pain Assessment and Treatment Centre Rheumatology Department - Saint-Antoine Hospital, Paris

Anne LAMBERT Physiotherapist Cochin Hospital, Paris



