Exclusion criteria:
- traumatic rotator cuff rupture
- previous surgical treatment of the shoulder
- frozen shoulder
- radiological and symptomatic osteoarthritis of the glenohumeral or acromioclavicular joint
- (rheumatoid) arthritis
- diabetes mellitus and cognitive disorders
- neurological disease or language barriers impairing participation.

Clinical visit and MRI

Randomization (n=108)

Allocation

Conservative treatment
Start analgesic medication, subacromial infiltration

Surgical treatment
Surgery within 6 weeks

Follow-Up

6 weeks
3 months

6 weeks postoperatively
3 months postoperatively

End of study

12 months
MRI

12 months
MRI