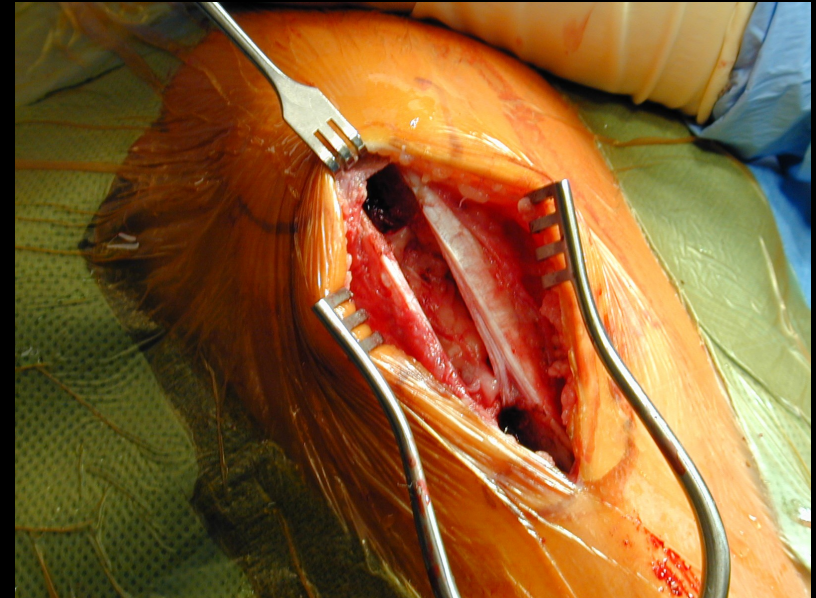


*Quadriceps Tendon-Patellar Bone Autograft
for ACL reconstruction*

Christos K. Yiannakopoulos, MD

Graft Choices

- Contralateral B-PT-B
- Ipsilateral BPTB
- Hamstring tendons
- Quadriceps tendon
- Allograft
 - Achilles tendon
 - B-PT-B
 - Tibialis tendon(s)



Graft Issues

- *Harvest site morbidity*
 - Peri-operative
 - Long term
- *Healing*
 - Bone-to-bone
 - Bone-to-tendon
- *Fixation problems*
 - Bone versus soft tissue
- *Allograft*
 - Virus transmission
 - Unfriendly host

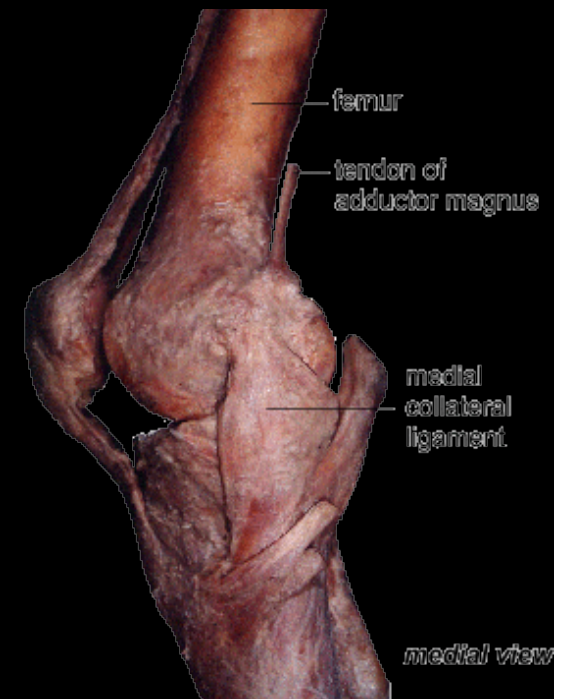
Rationale of using QT Autograft



- ✓ Comparable structural properties with respect to normal ACL
- ✓ Easy harvesting
- ✓ Versatility: can include bone block from patella or not
- ✓ Expendable ?

Quadriceps Tendon

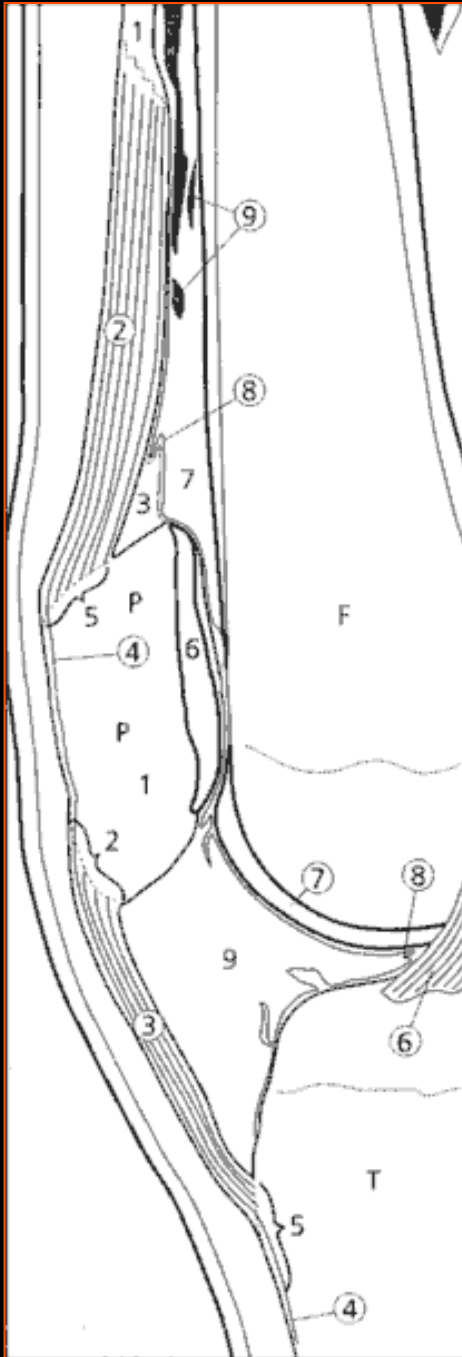
- Long-term results unknown
- Extensor mechanism response
- Harvest site morbidity



Why Use the Quadriceps Tendon Autograft ?

1. Difficulty harvesting the hamstring tendons
2. Revision ACL reconstruction

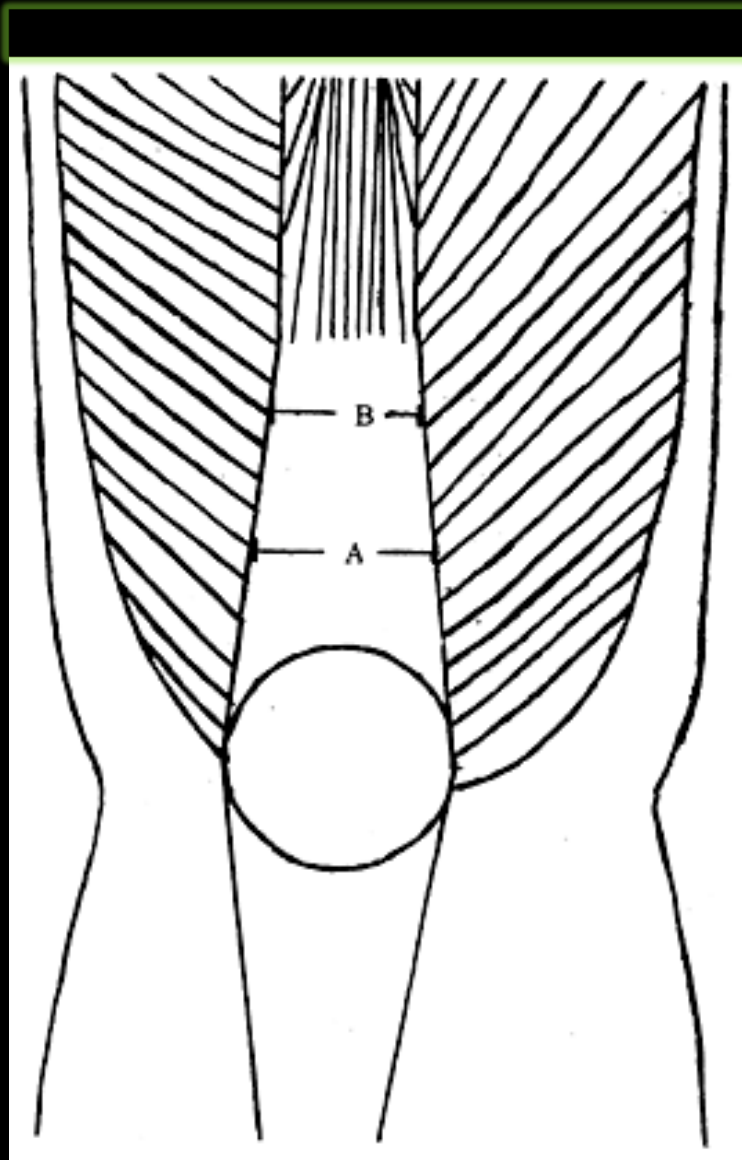
The Quadriceps Tendon



- ✓ consists of four leaves
- ✓ the anterior most layer coalesces to form prepatellar retinaculum
- ✓ inserts into anterior half of patellar base

STÄUBLI H.U. et al., Quadriceps tendon and patellar ligament : cryosectional anatomy and structural properties in young adults. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc, 1996,4 : 100-110

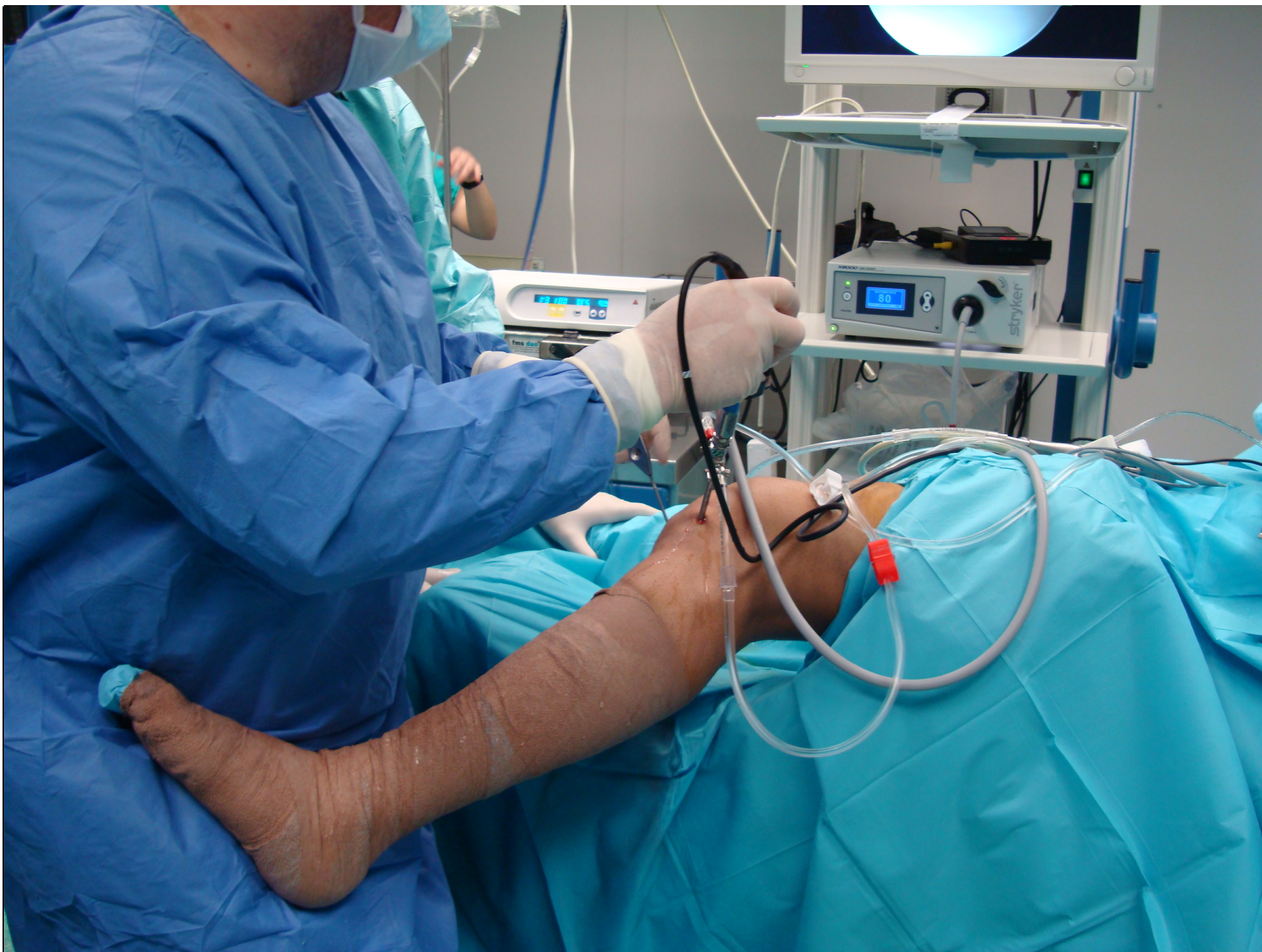
The mean quadriceps tendon width



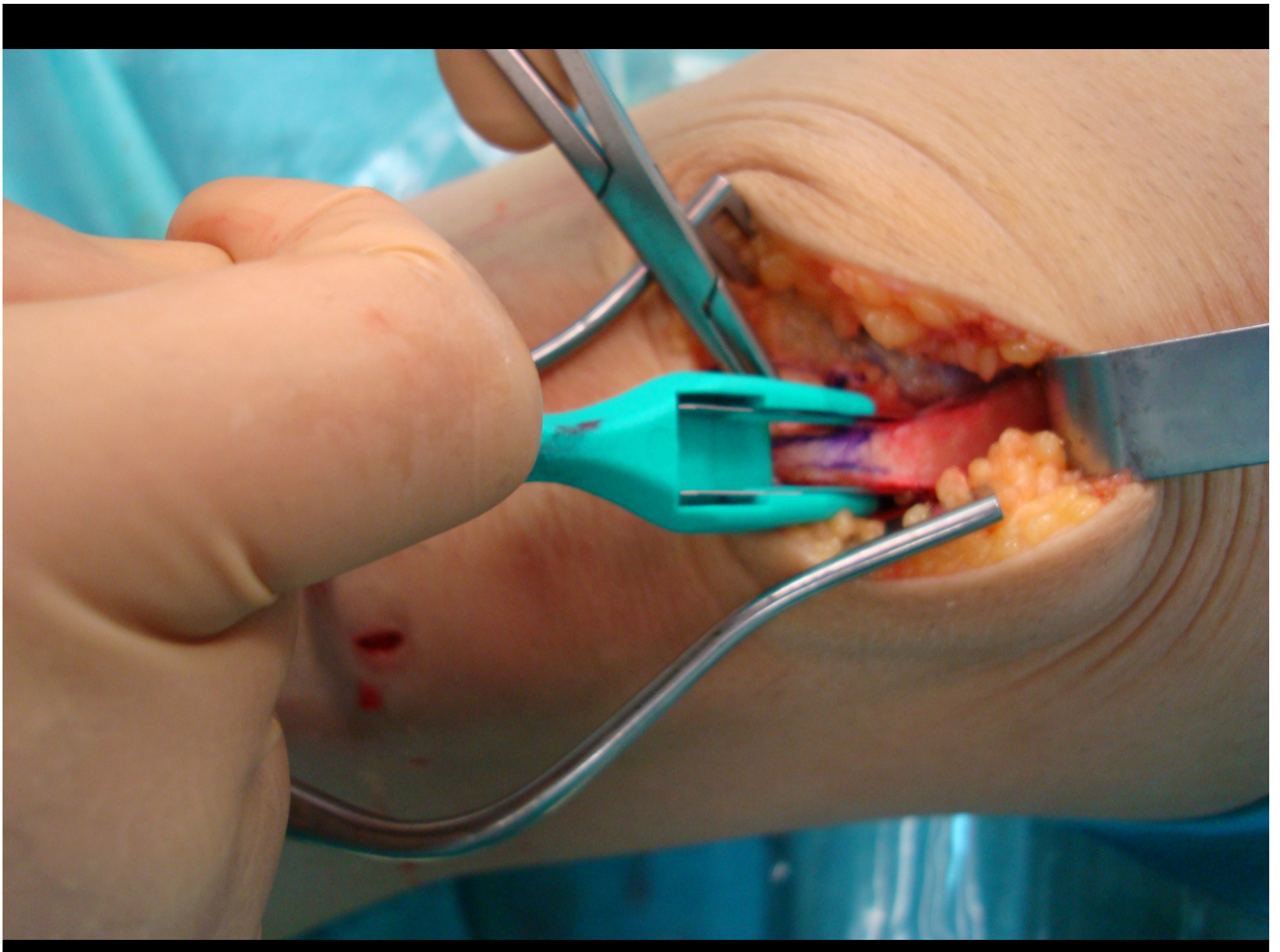
2.1 cm (0.5 - 4.0 cm) at 5 cm

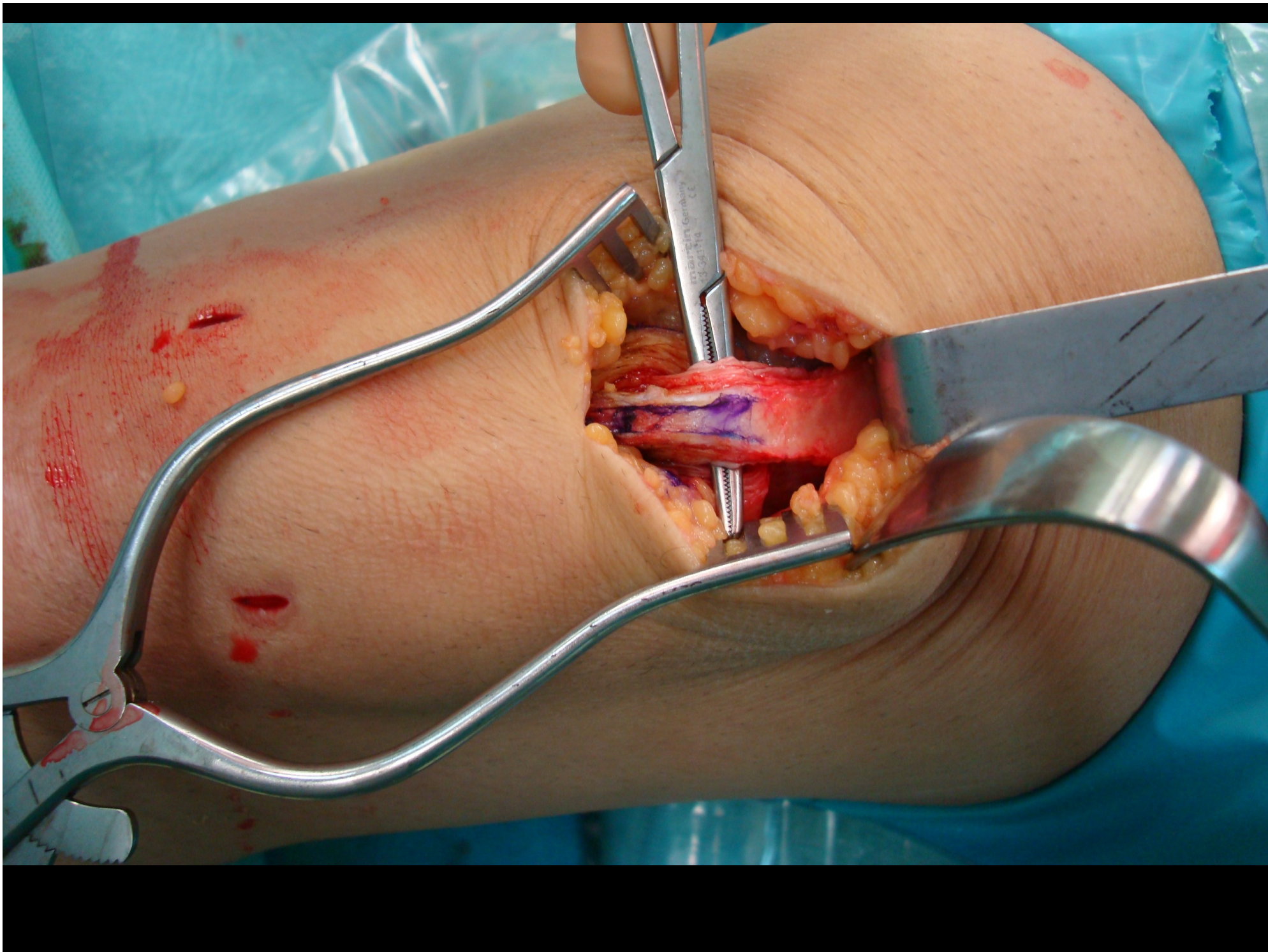
3.6 cm (1.5 - 7.0 cm) at 2 cm

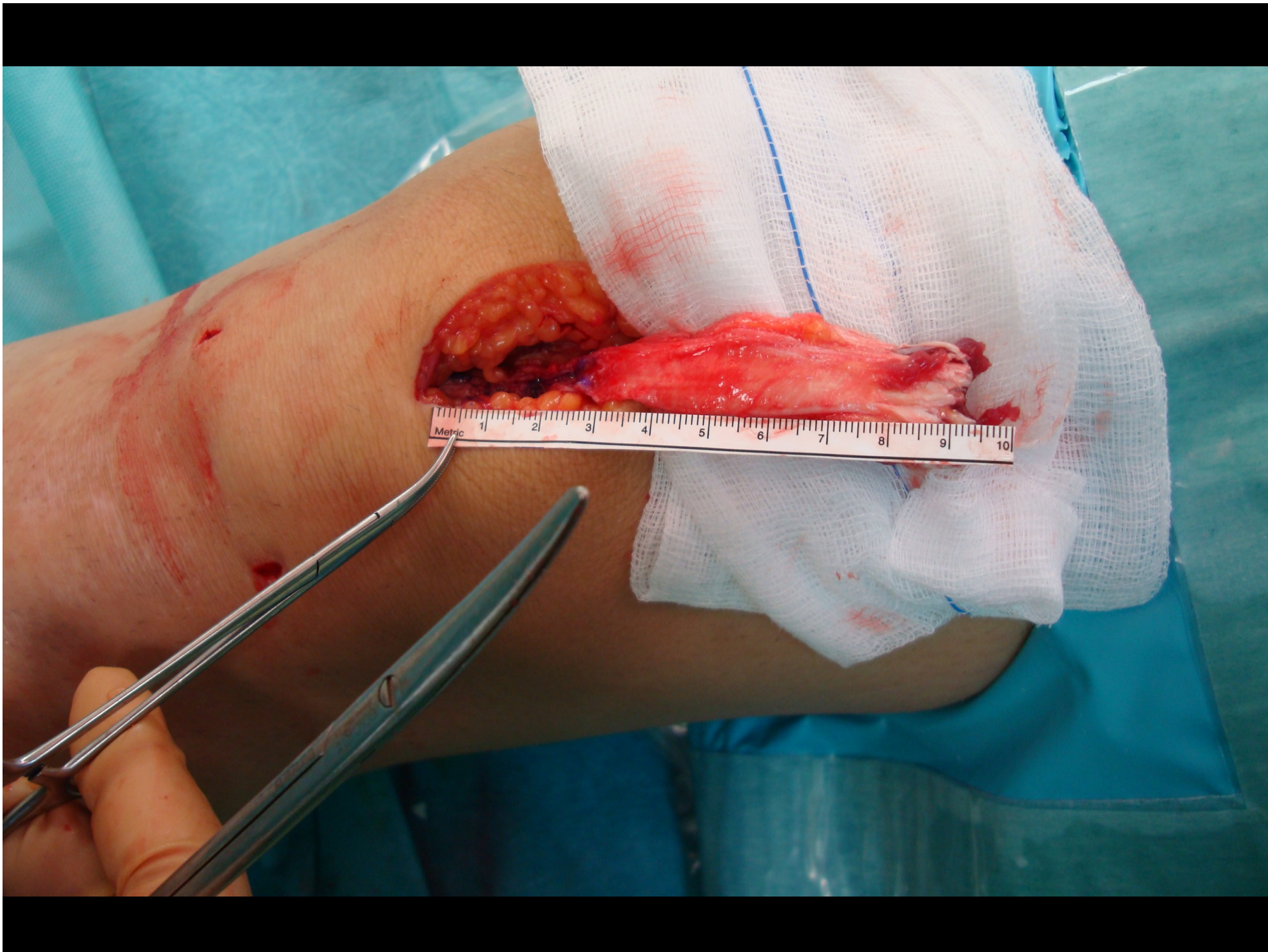
Surgical Technique

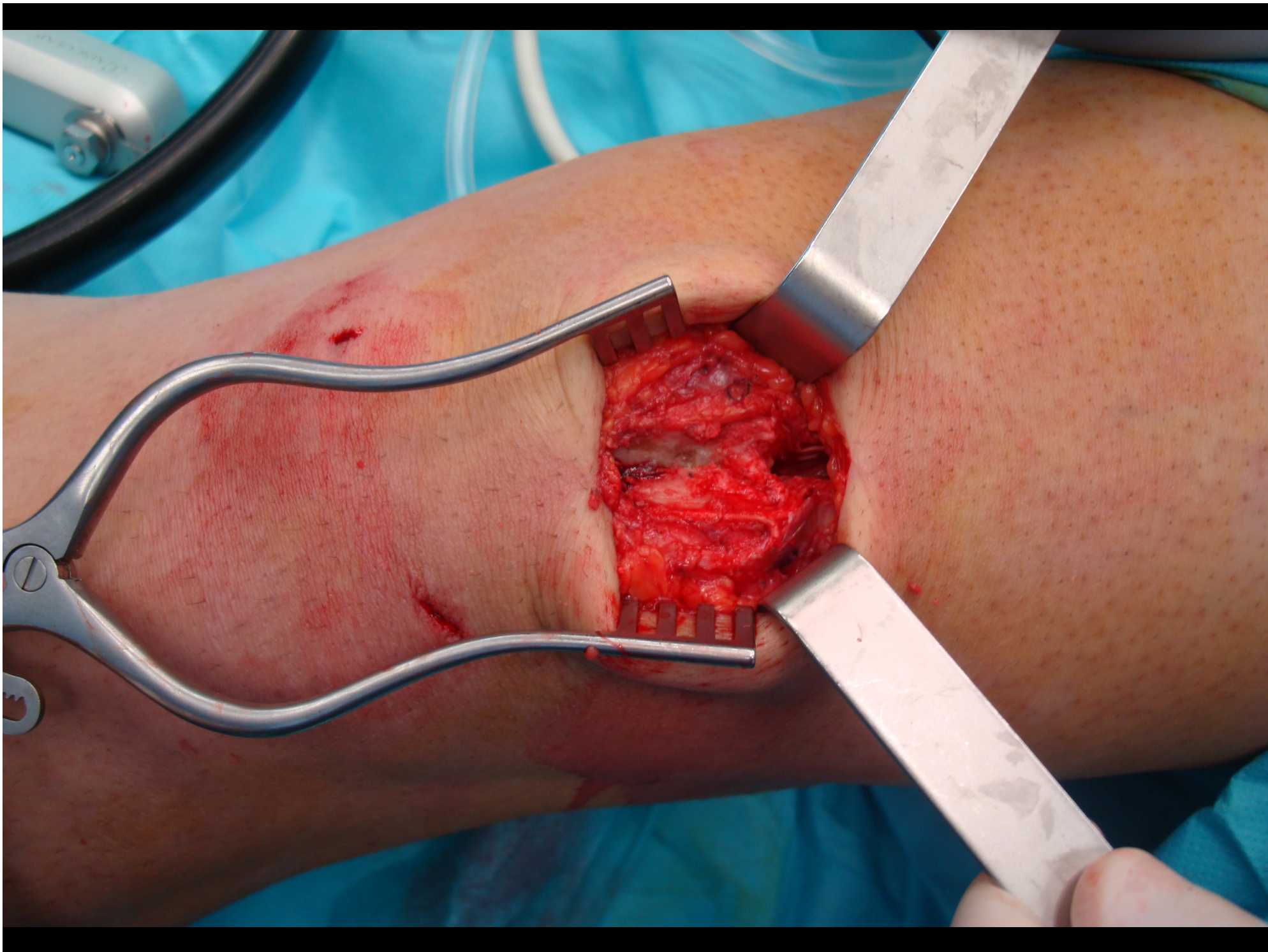


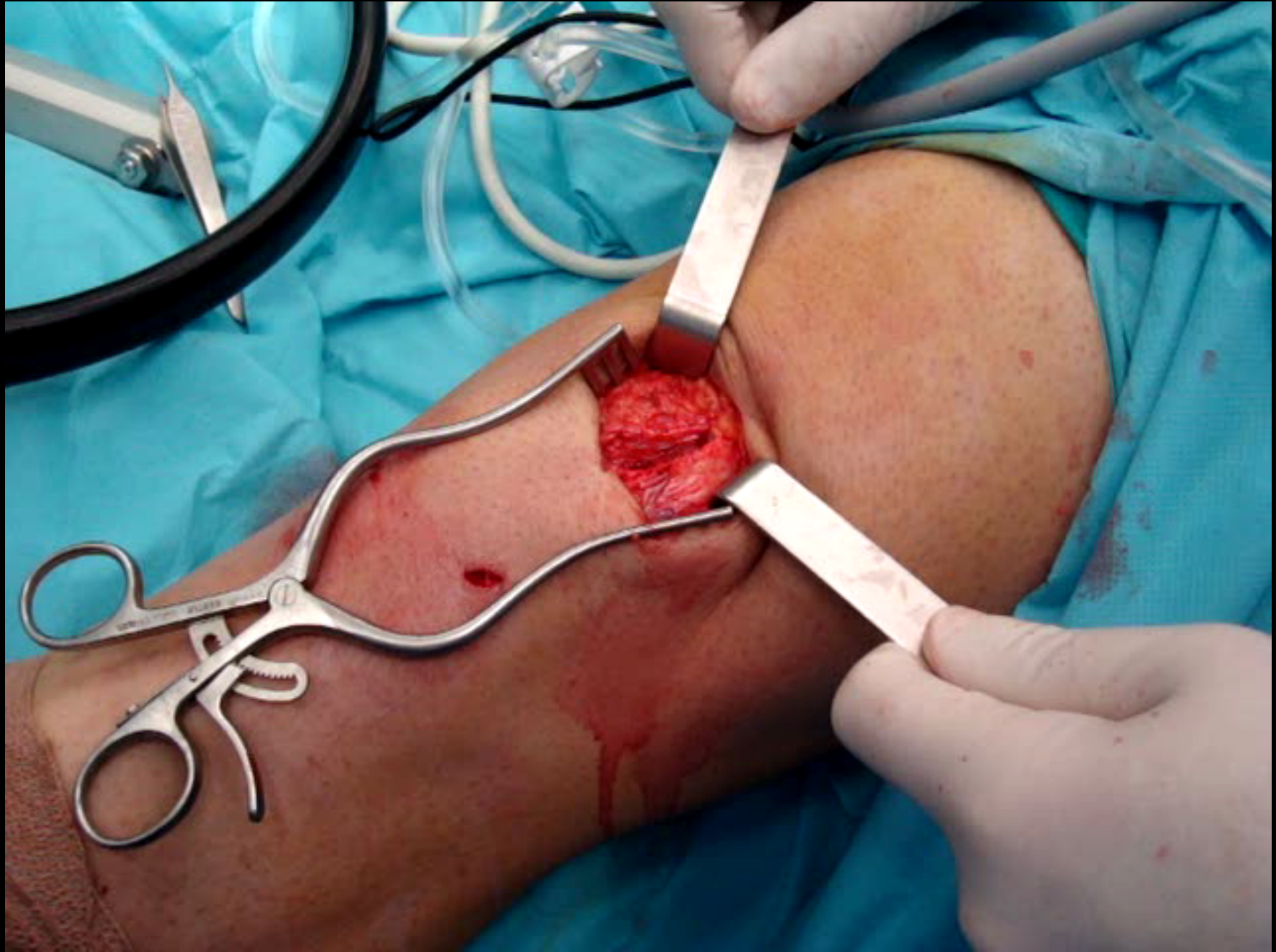








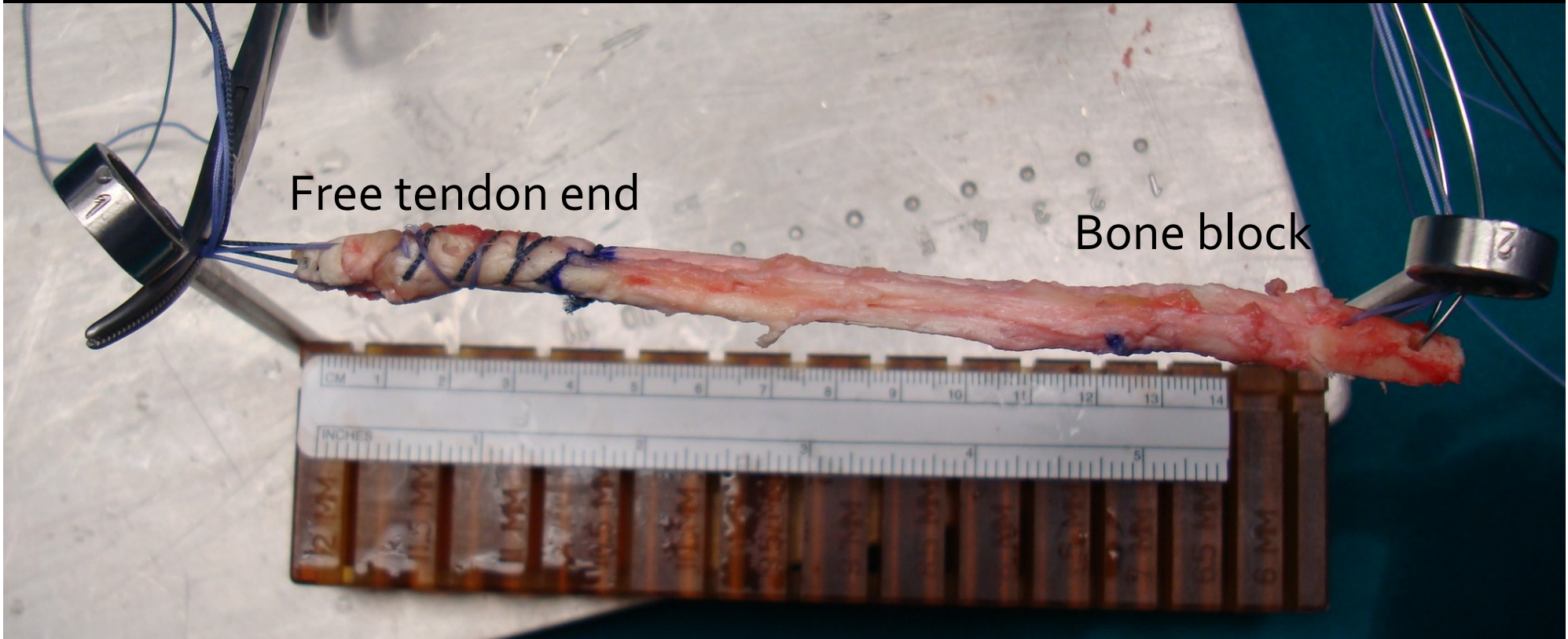


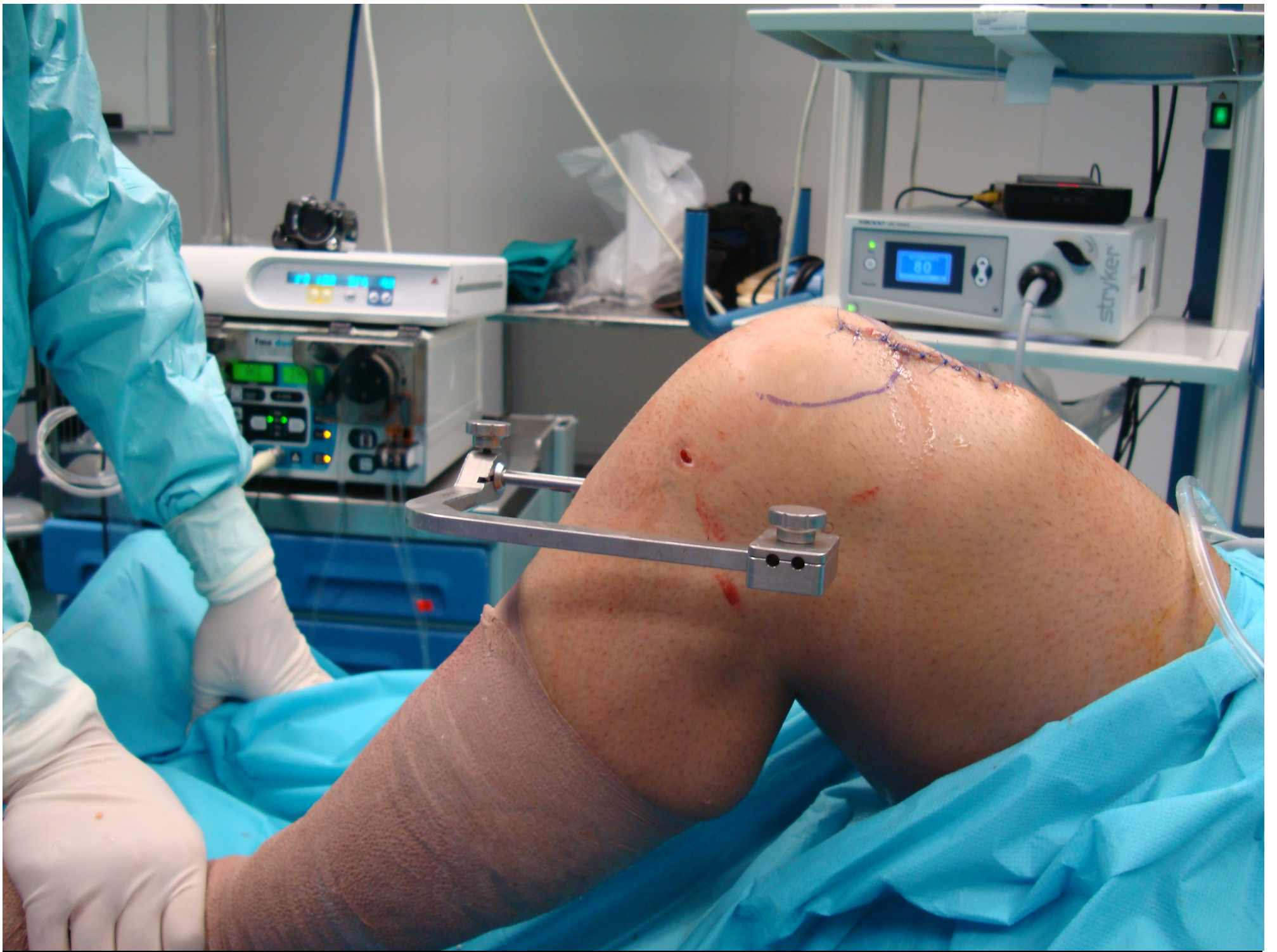


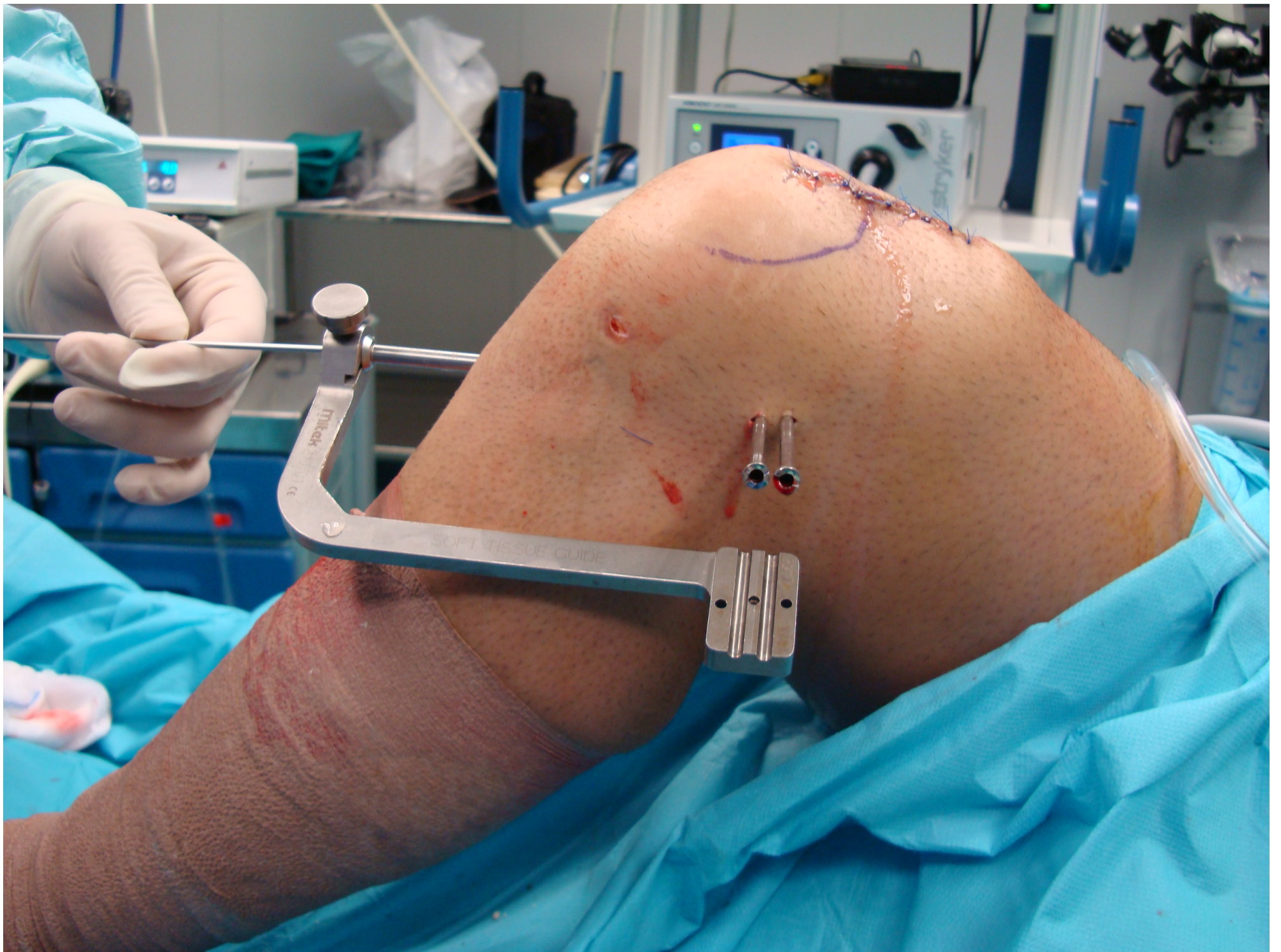


Free tendon end

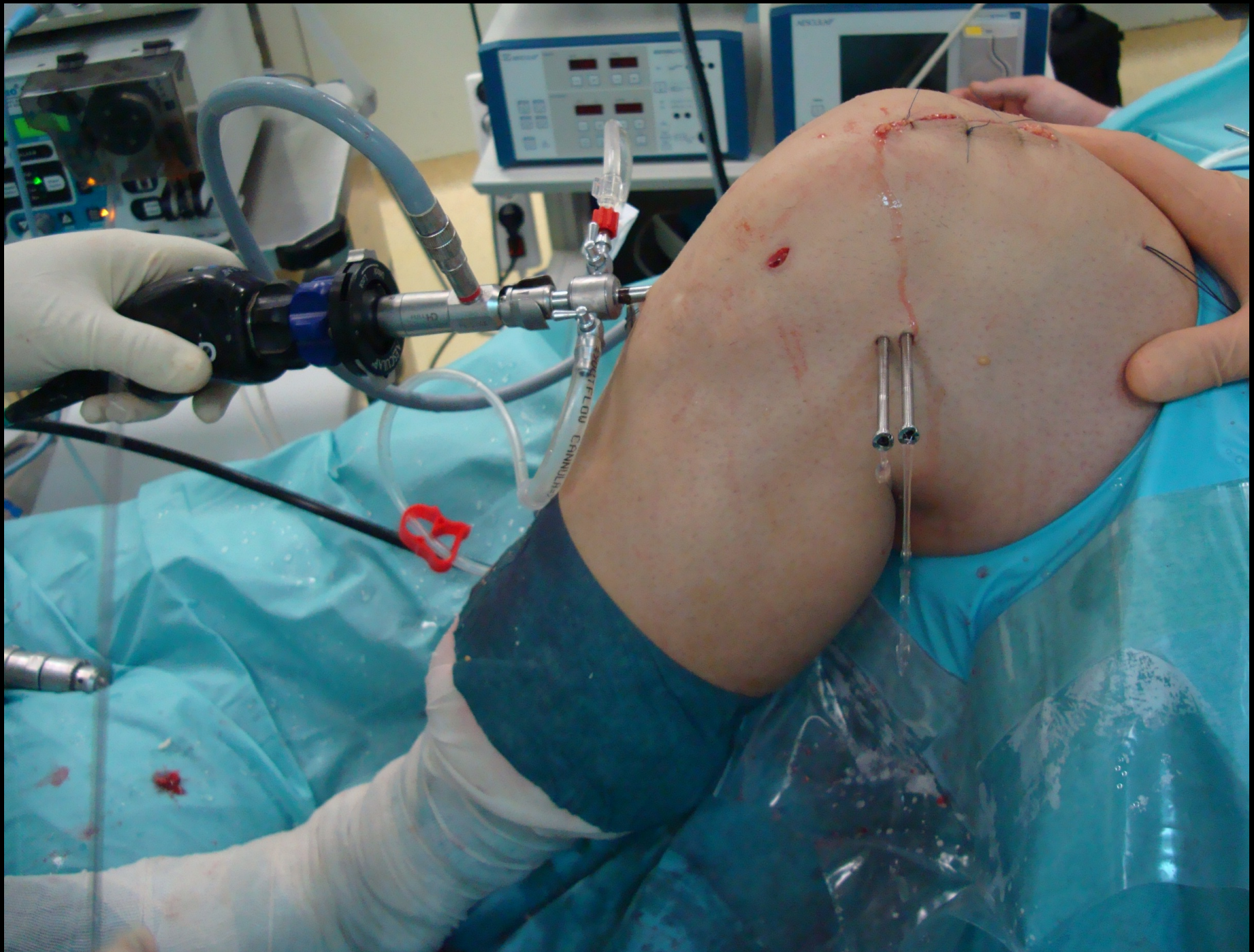
Bone block

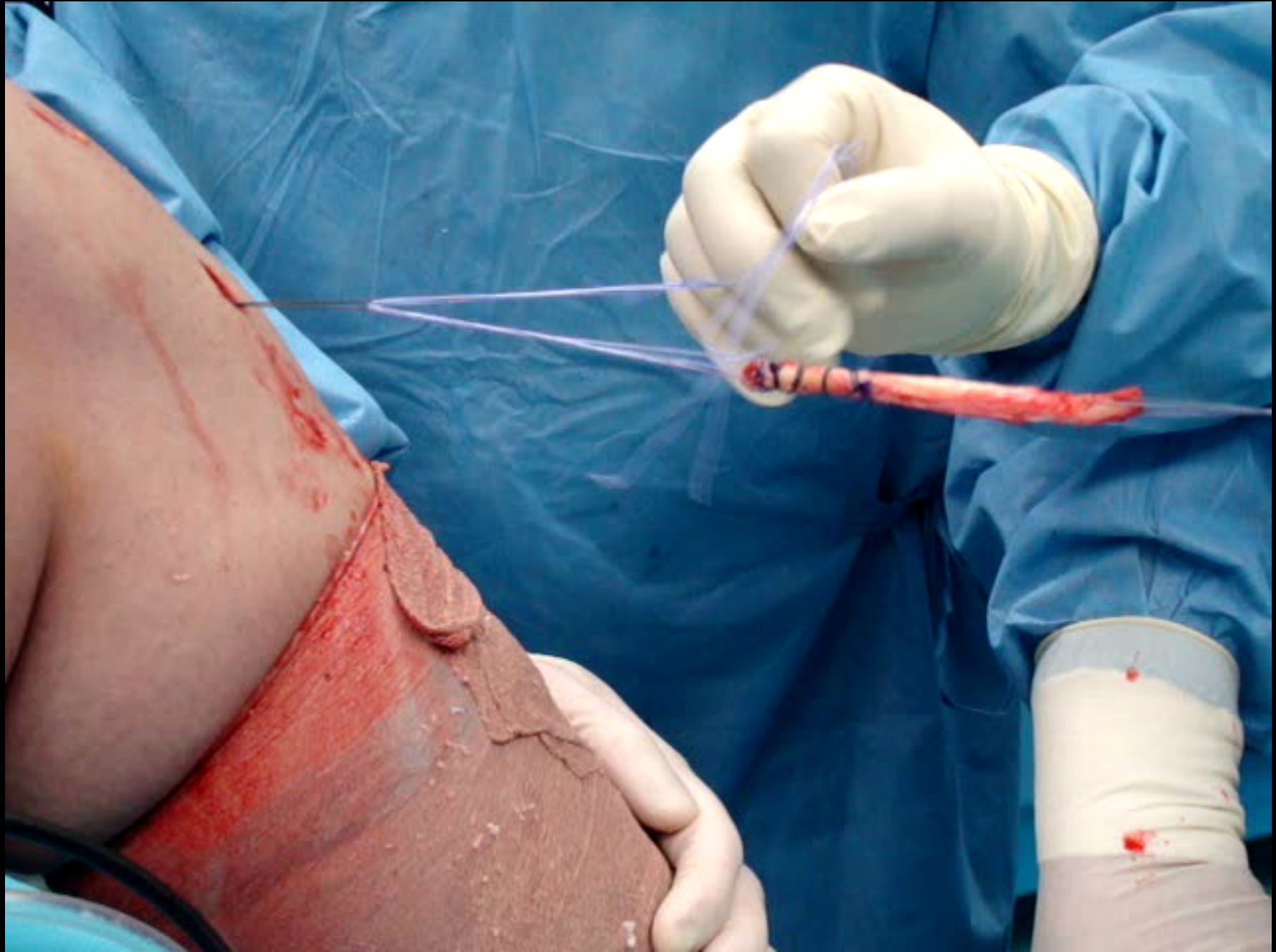


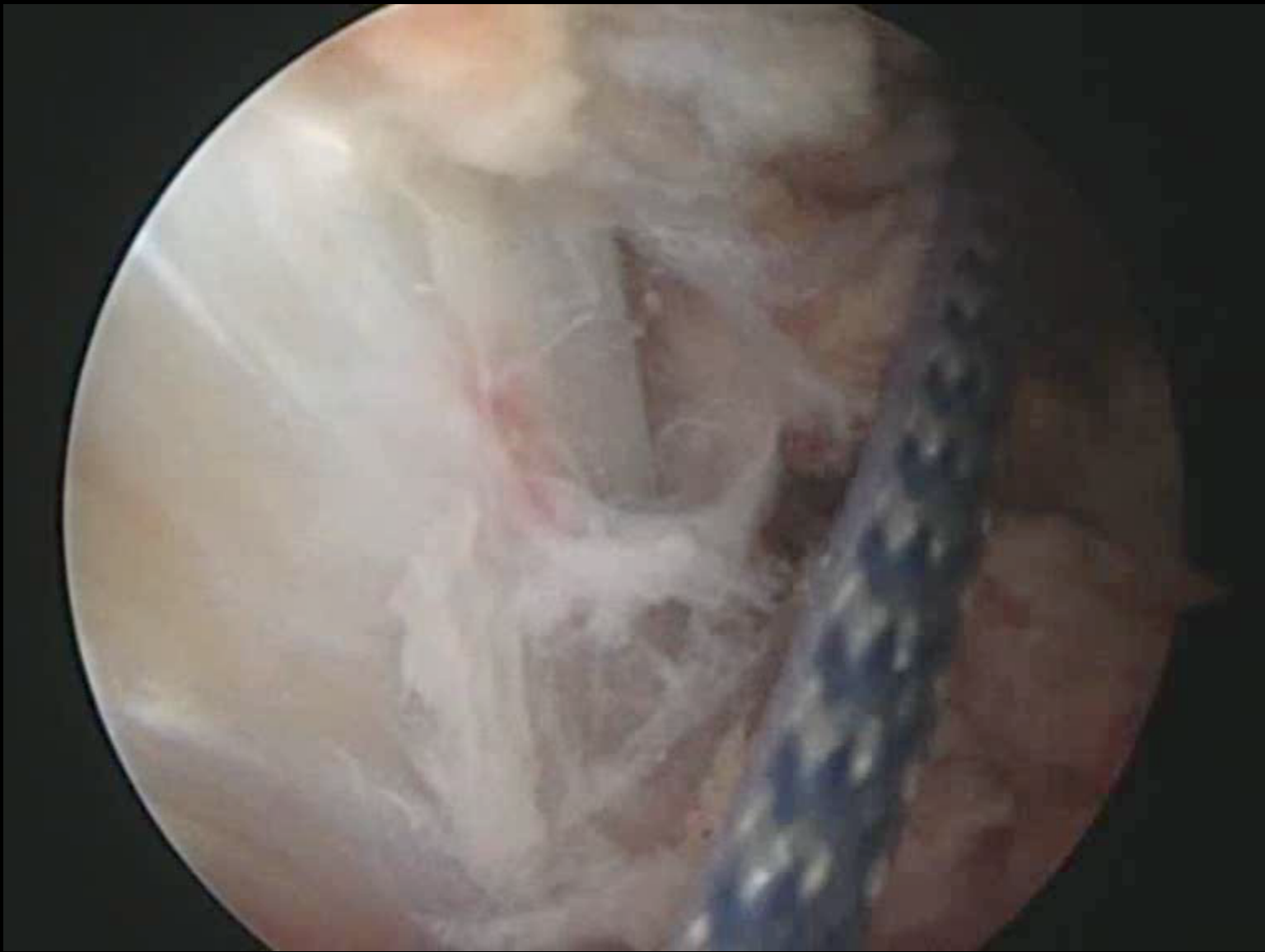






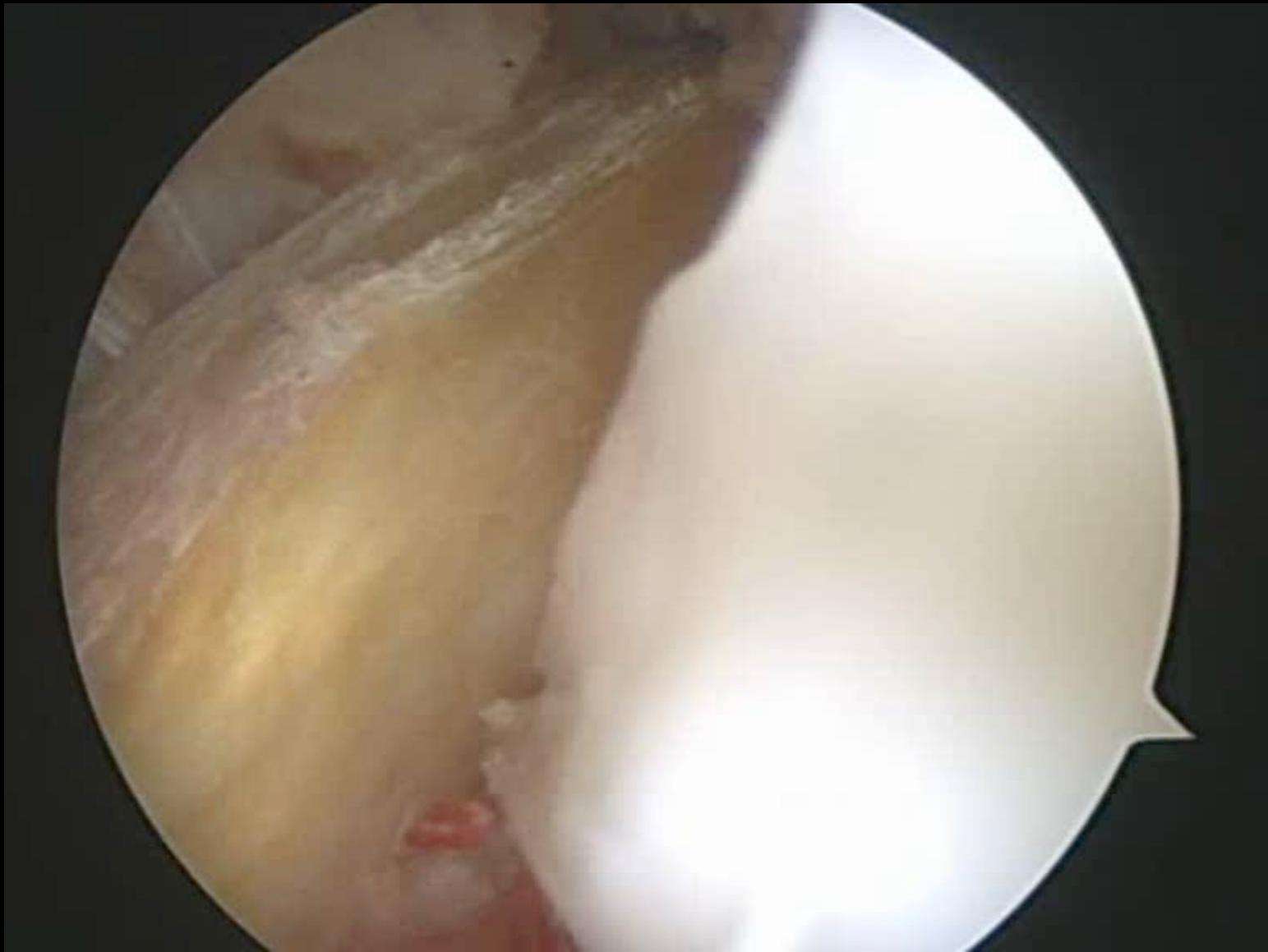
















24 hours p-op



Personal Experience

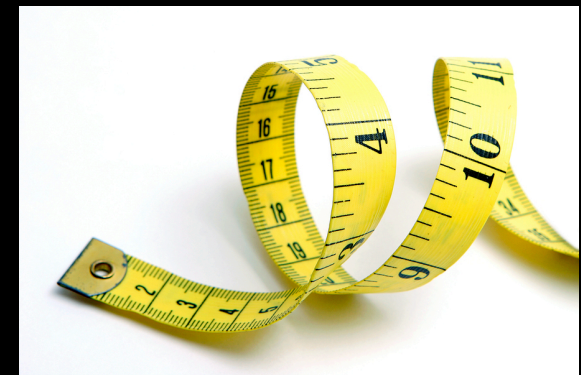


Materials - Methods

- 32 patients
- Follow-up > 18 months
- Male: 25
- Female: 7
- Acute tears: 9
- Chronic tears: 23
- Concomitant procedures:
 - meniscal repair 6 cases
 - microfractures, 4 cases
 - ACT, 1 case

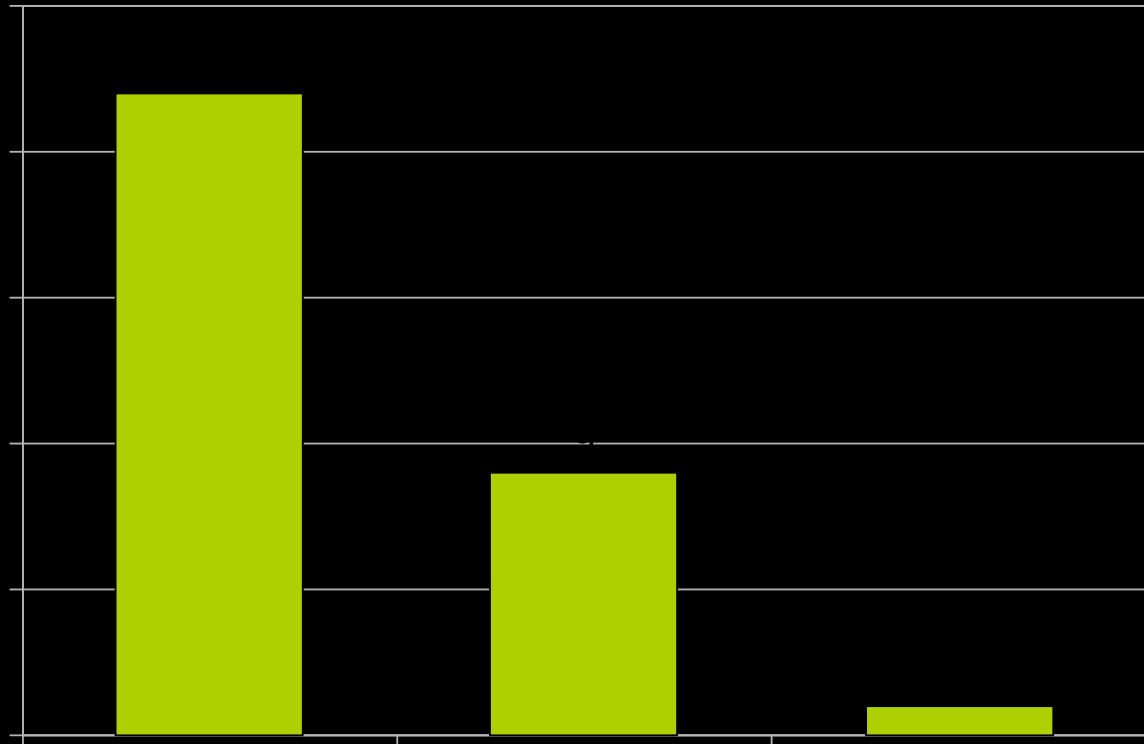
Results

- Complications
- Donor site tenderness
- SLR after 36 hrs: 31/32
- SLR after 48 hrs: 100%
- ROM loss > 5 degrees 2 patients



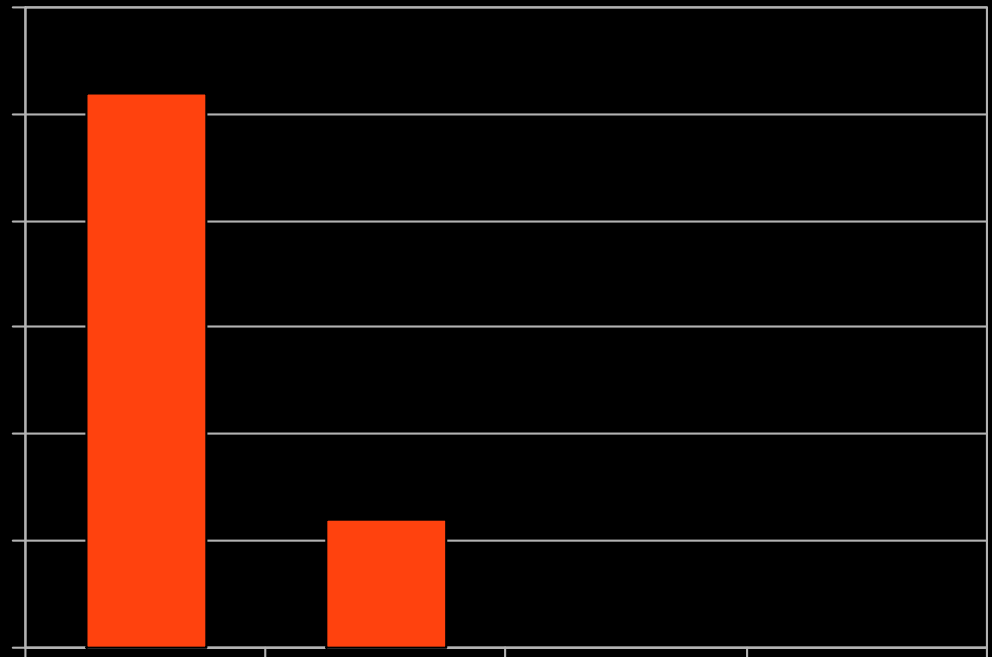
KT 1000 manual maximum testing

-1 to 1 mm	22
1 to 2 mm	9
3 to 5 mm	1



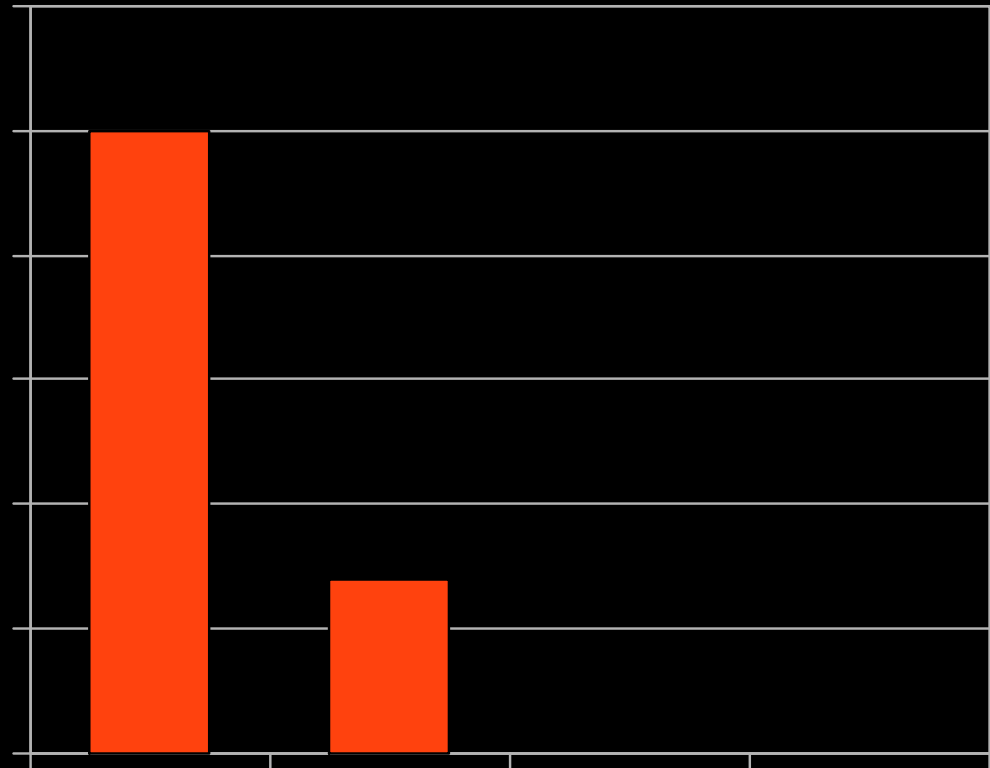
Pivot Shift

A equal	26
B glide	6
C clunk	0
D gross	0



IKDC global score postop

A 25
B 7
C 0
D 0



Harvest site pathology

A none

29

B mild

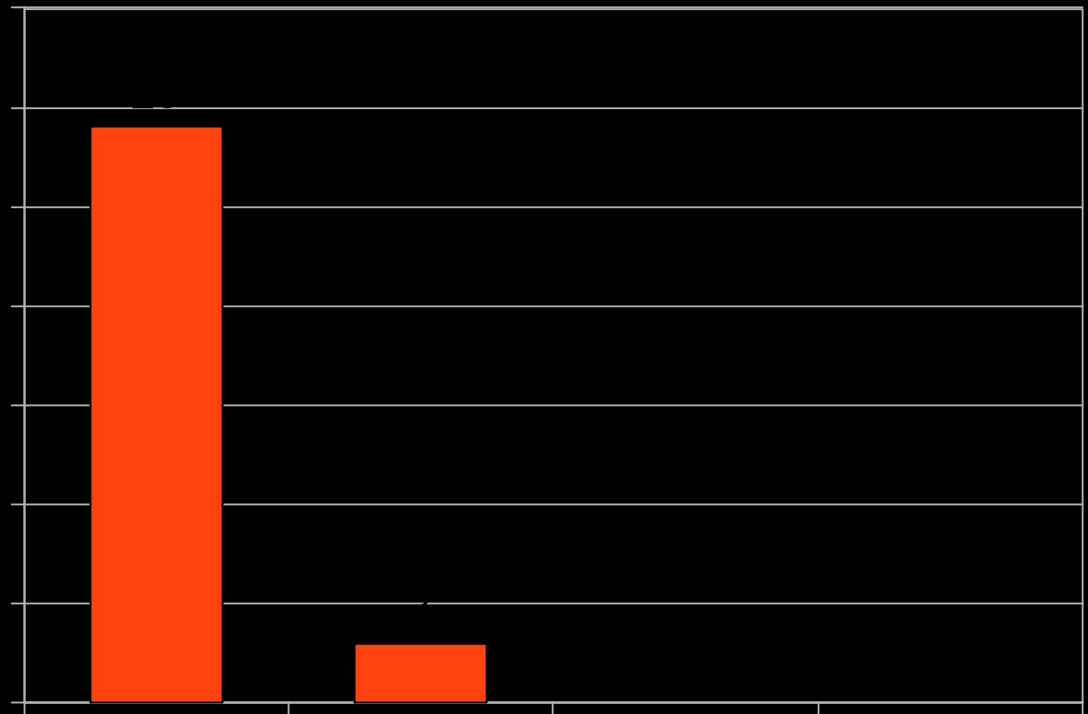
3

C moderate

0

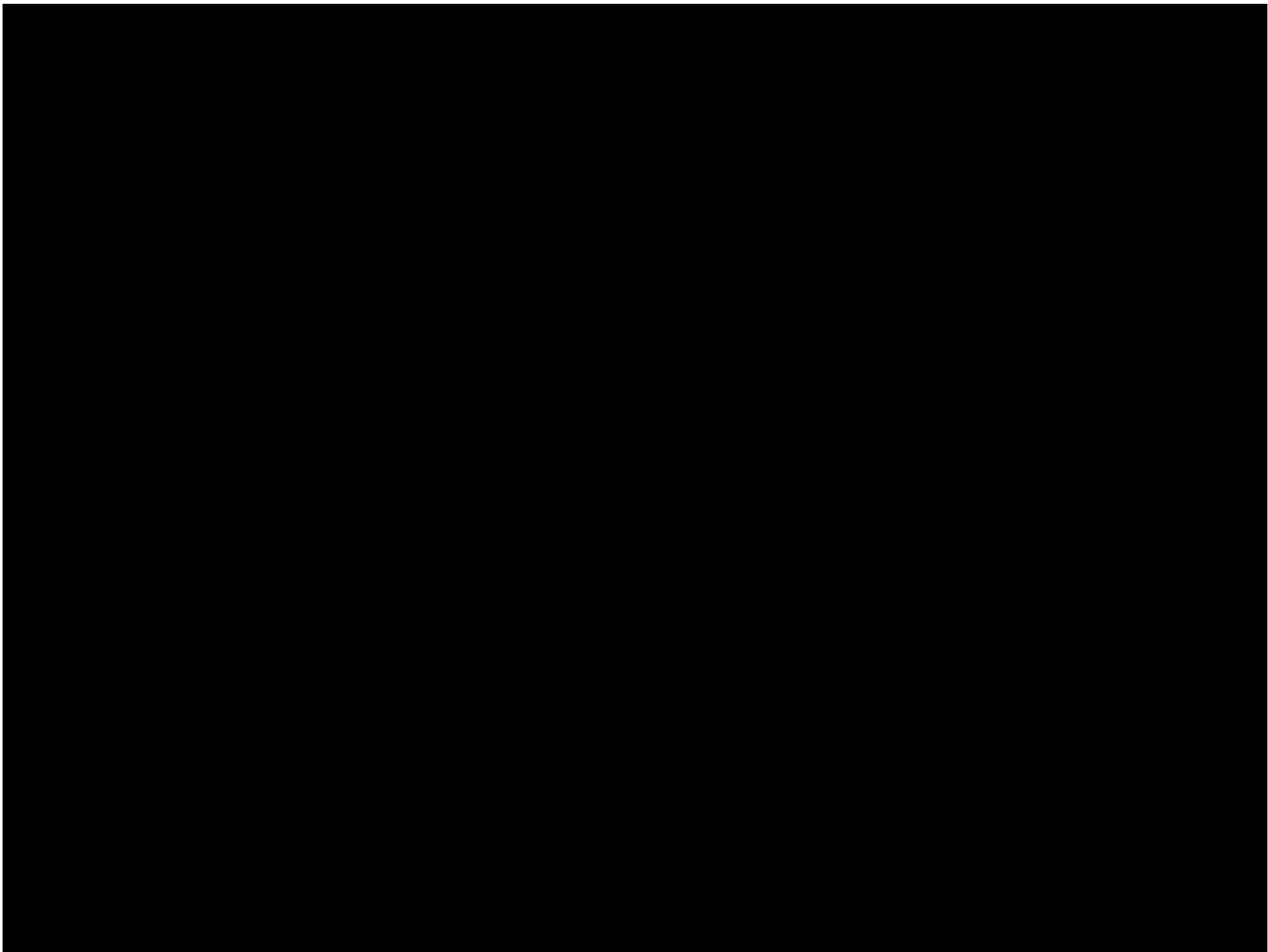
D severe

0



THE END





Importance of Strong Early Fixation

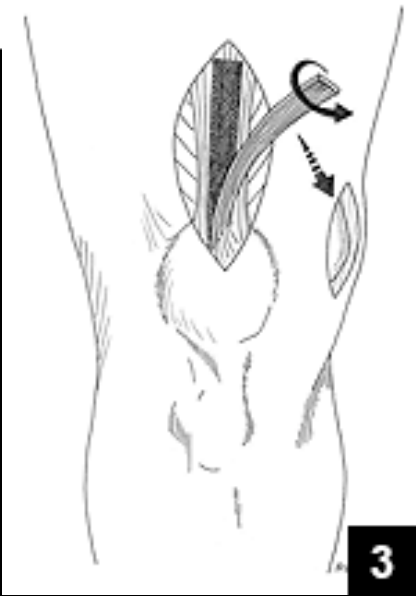
- Graft fixation is crucial in ACL reconstruction and is the weakest link in the initial 6- to 12-week period, during which healing of the graft to the host bone occurs.
- The graft must be able to withstand early rehabilitation, which can consist of forces as high as 450 to 500 N.
- Early Fixation failure usually occurs on tibial side.



1

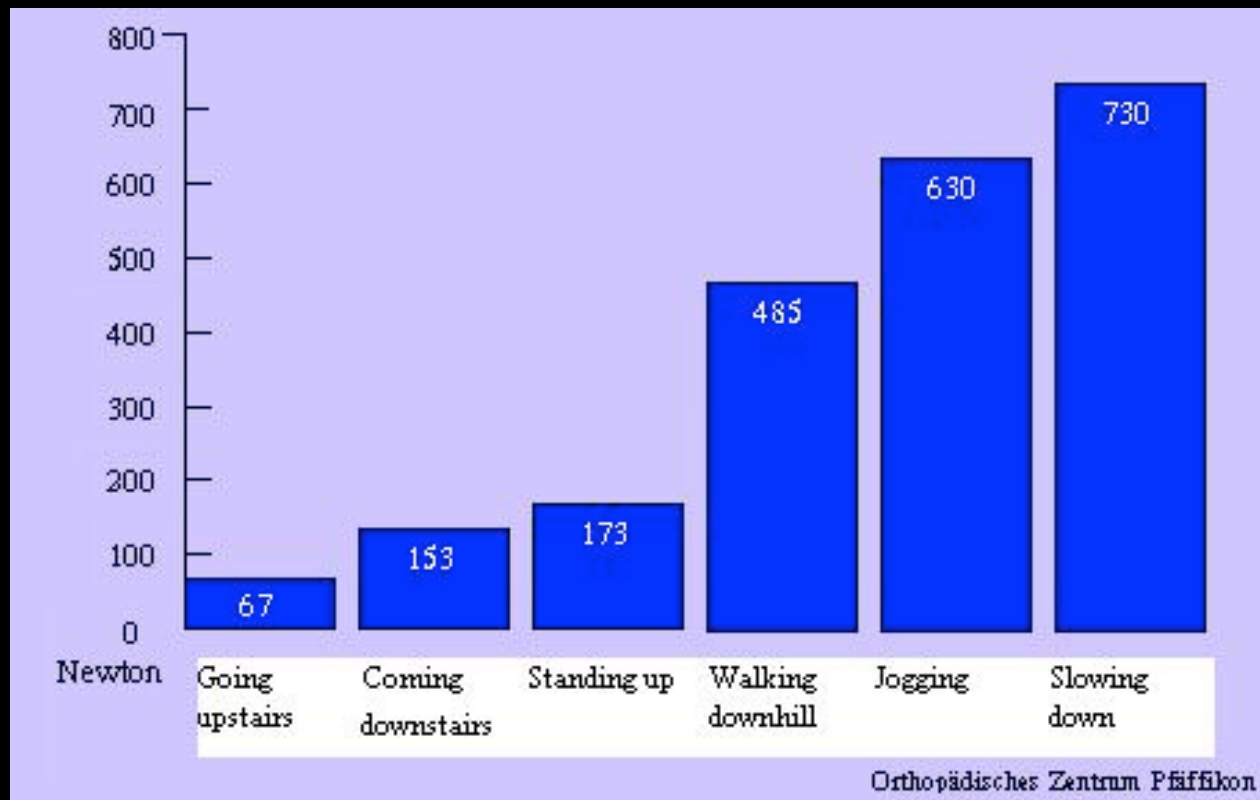


2



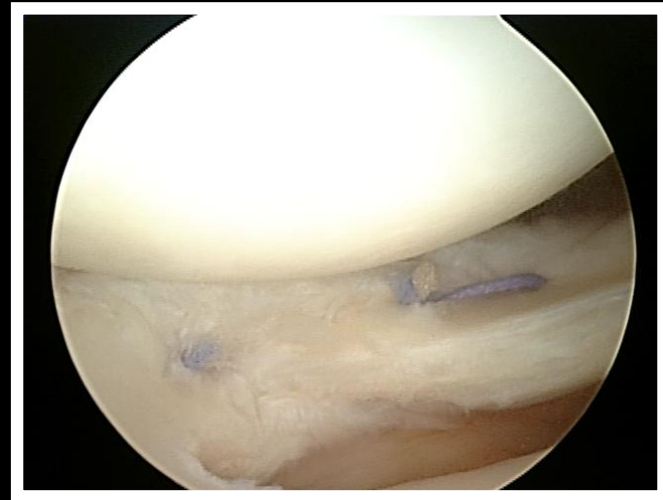
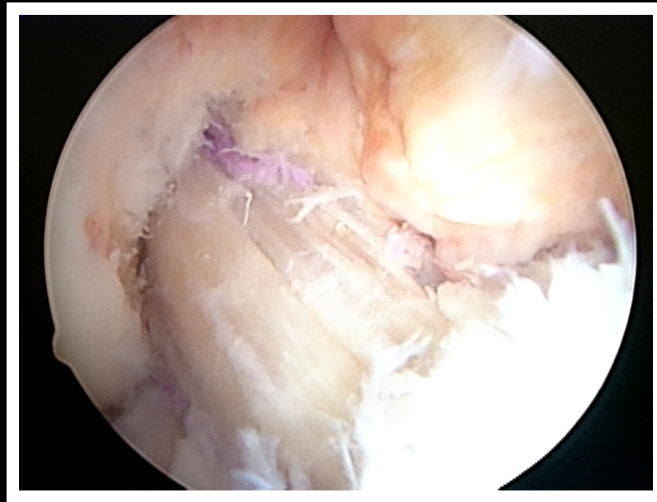
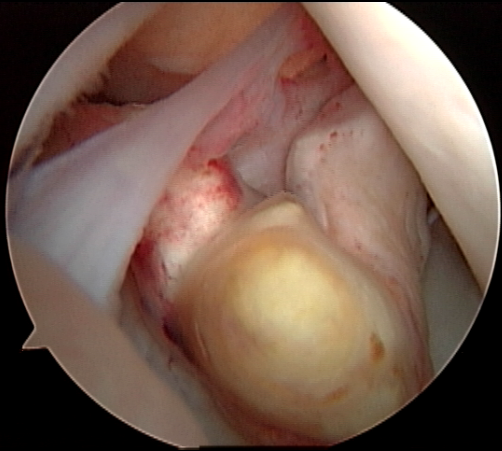
3

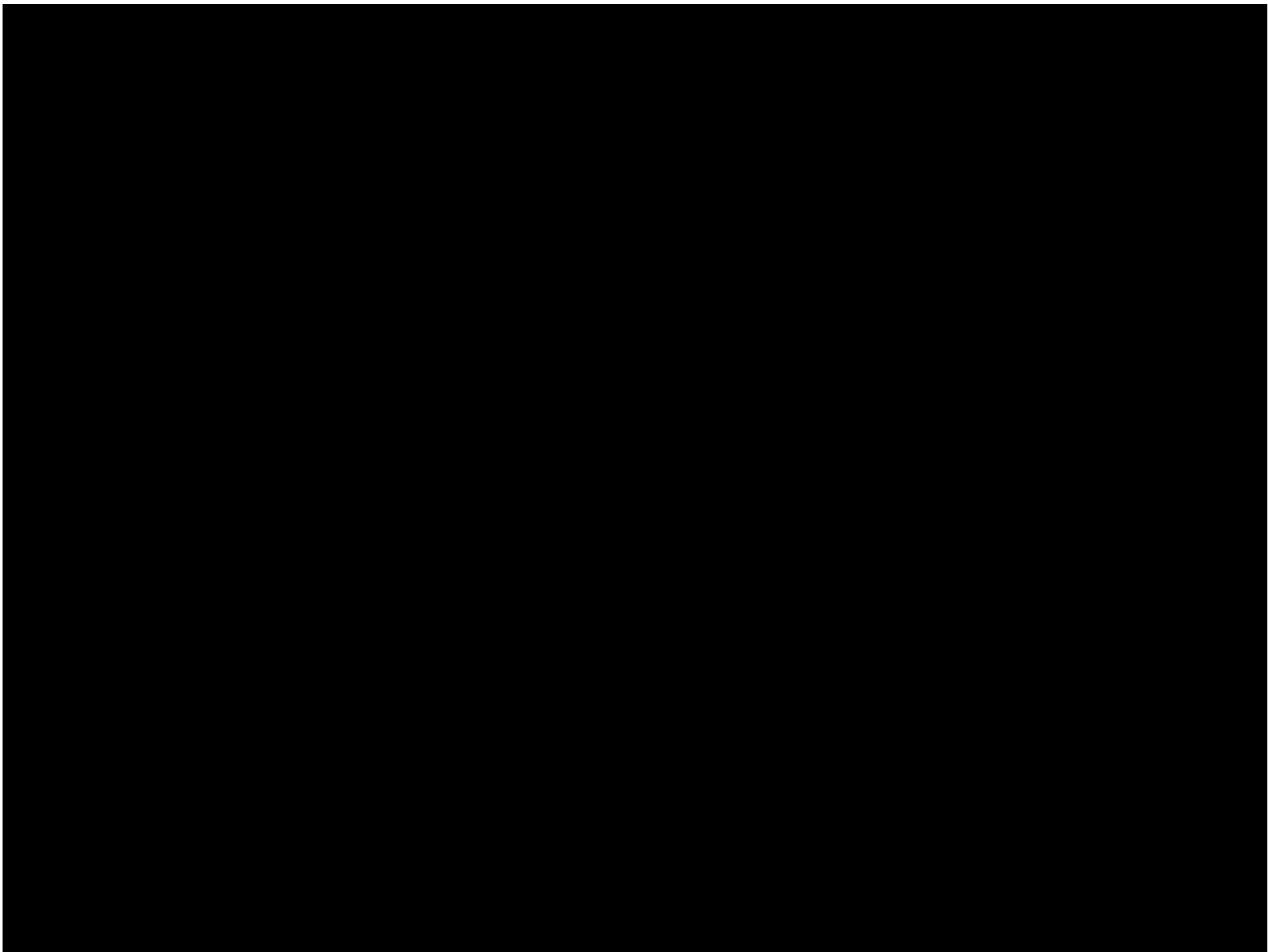
Forces on the anterior cruciate ligament during normal daily activities











Tear resistance of the normal cruciate ligament and different grafts

Normal ACL	2160 to 2317 Newton
Ligamentum patellae (10 mm)	2376 to 2527 Newton
Quadruple hamstring	4108 to 4308 Newton
Quadriceps tendon (10 mm)	2352 to 2837 Newton

Graft Choice Issues

- Patellar tendon graft
 - Patellar surface irregularities
 - Patellar tendinitis
 - Patella infera/alta
 - Elasticity/stiffness
- Contralateral patellar tendon
 - Effects on 'good' knee
 - Delayed rehab versus loss of double injury

Graft Pretensioning

- May not be of benefit
- 75% viscoelasticity returns to normal one minute after fixation for:
 - 5-10lbs tension at 15° flexion BPTB
 - 4.5 kg – 6.75 at 20 to 30 degrees flexion hamstring

Precise amount of tension has yet to be determined

Graft Choice

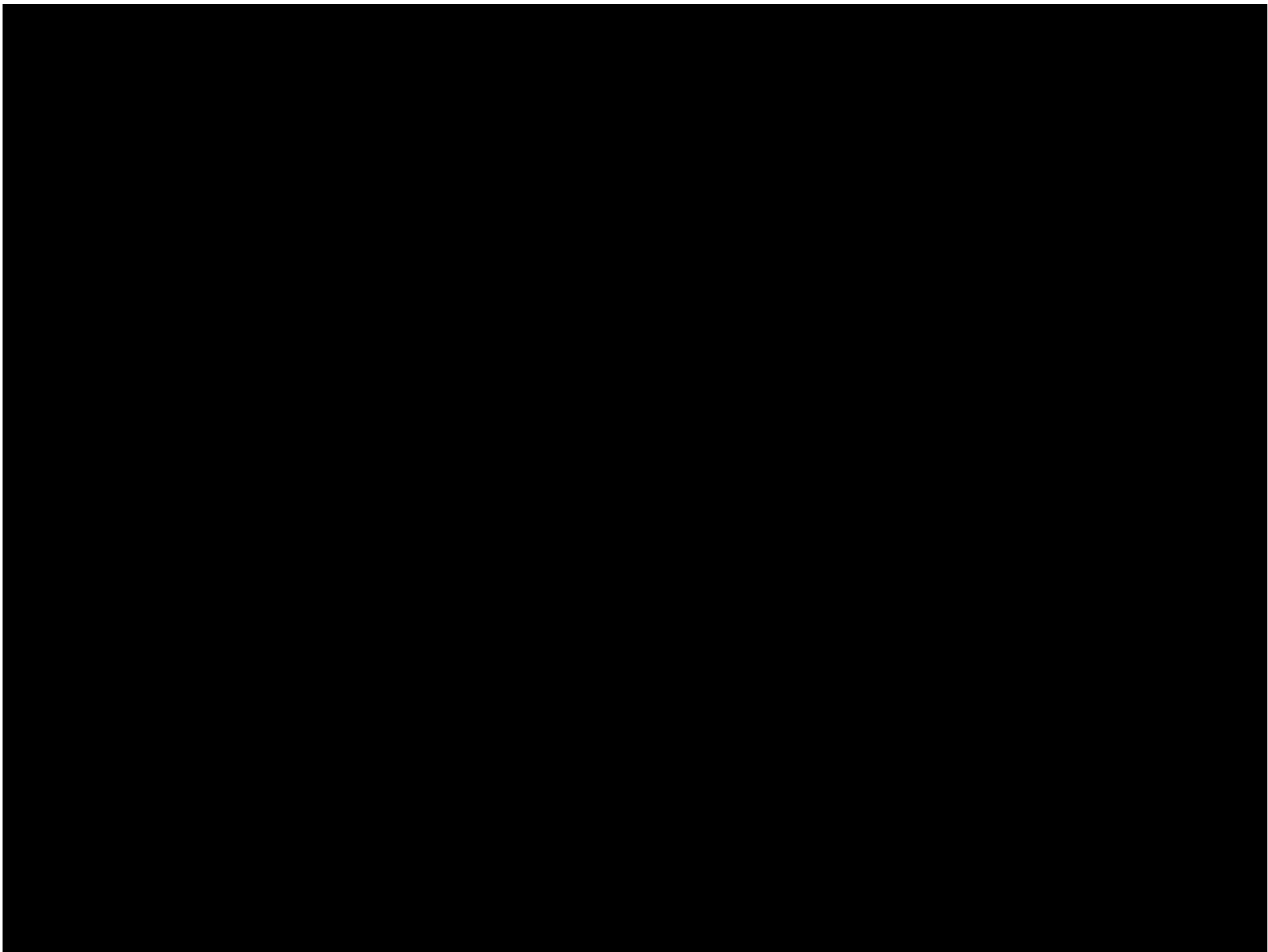
BPTB - ~40%

Hamstrings/G- ~40%

Allograft

Contralateral BPTB

Quadriceps Tendon





Ultimate tensile load of intact Human ACL and a few common replacement ACL grafts

Graft type	Ultimate tensile load
Intact ACL	2160±154
Bone-patellar tendon-bone	2376±151
Single-strand semitendinosus	1216±50
Quadruple hamstring	4108±200
Quadriceps tendon (10mm)	2352±495

Materiel and methods

- Prospective study
- 100 knees from 134 consecutive operations
- (1 surgeon, 1 technique)
- Chronic cases
- Accident to surgery interval : 4 ± 4.8 ys
- Mean age : 27.8 ± 9 years
- Males : 58 %
- Sport's trauma : 83 %
- Previous surgery in 32 cases :
 - 15 ACL reconstructions,
 - Meniscal resections : 18 med, 5 lat
- Follow-up : 11.7 ± 2 ys (10 to 16)
-

Methods

Function

- IKDC (International Knee Documentation Committee)
- A.R.P.E.GE score

Anatomical value

- KT-1000 arthrometer
- Anterior radiological drawer

Methods

KT-1000 Arthrometer

(preop - post-op)

- KT 1 : 6g n
- KT 2 : 8g n
- KT 3 : maxi-manual

Stress radiography

(preop - post-op)

- 20° of flexion
- Load : 9 kg
- Translation of medial and lateral compartments

Per-operative findings

- **Medial meniscus lesions : 30 %**
+ 25 previous meniscectomies = 55 %
- **Lateral meniscus lesions : 19 %**
- **Cartilages lesions : 19 %**
 - Medial : 12
 - Lateral : 4
 - Both : 3

Complications

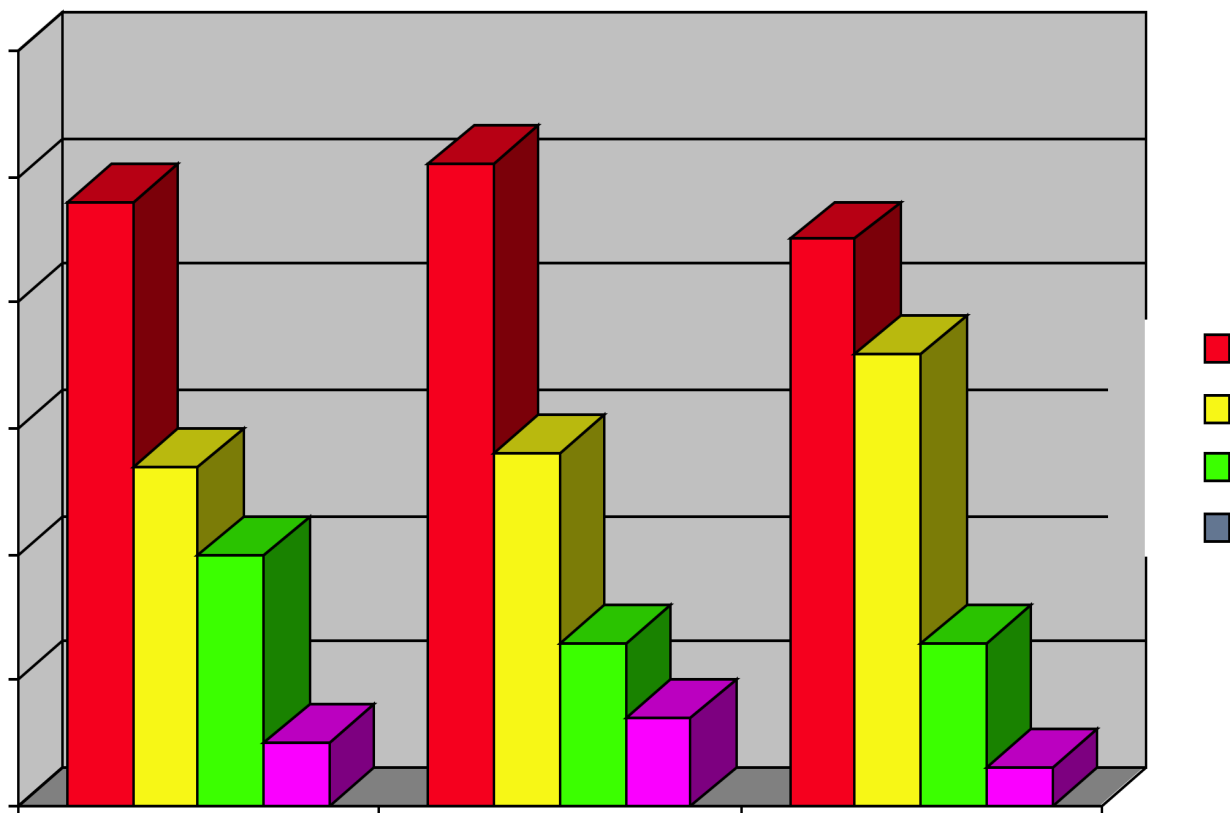
- 7 ematomas
- 2 DVT
- 1 temporary peroneal nerve palsy
- 2 SND
- 3 skin infections
- 1 infection

Results

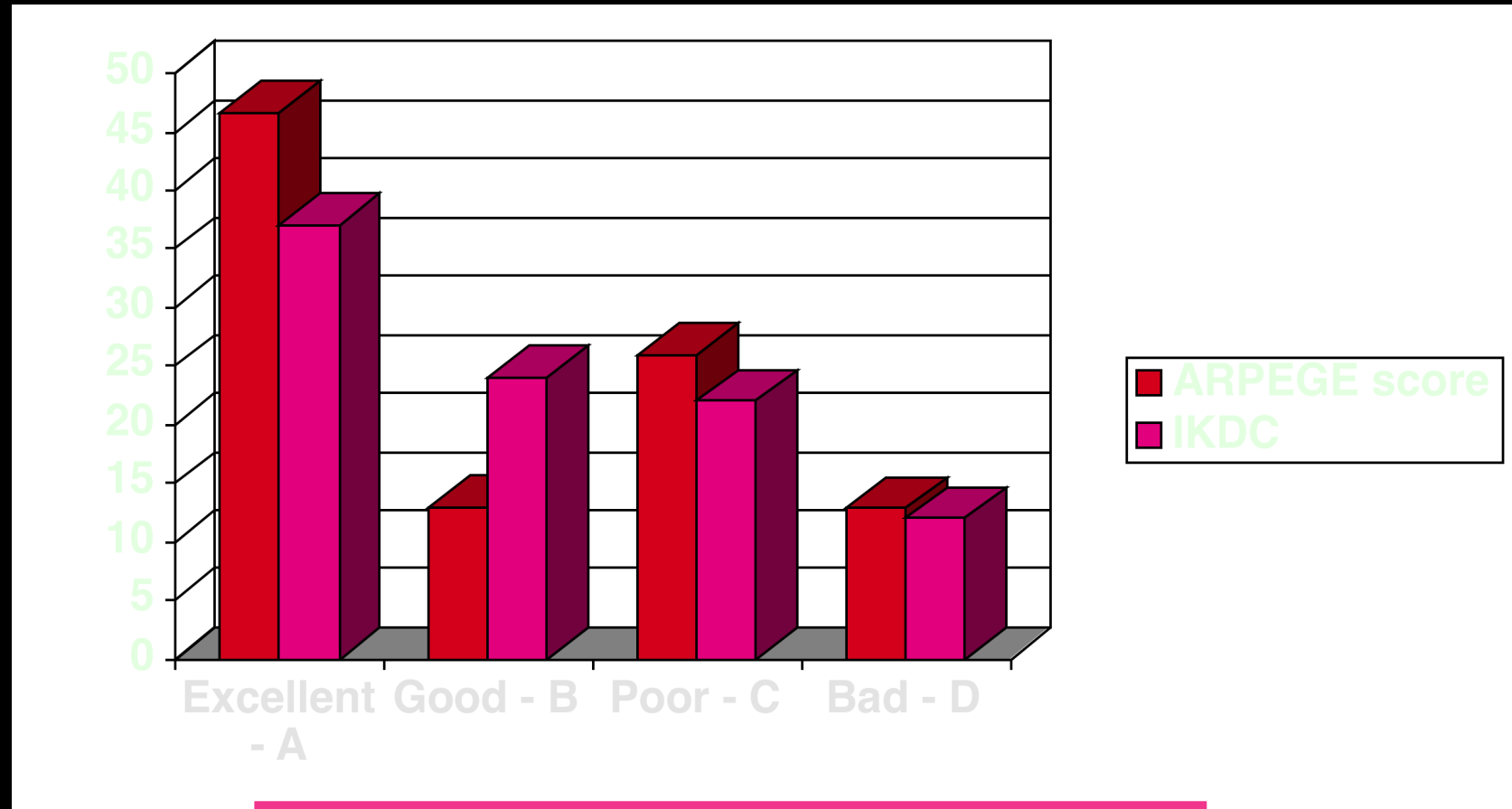
- Flexion : $143^{\circ} \pm 11$
- Flexion contracture : $4.5^{\circ} \pm 7$
- Amyotrophy : $1 \text{ cm} \pm 0.8$ (28 having none)

- Recurrence of laxity : 9 cases
- Pivot-shift test
 - ++ : 3 %
 - + : 22 %

Symptoms according to activity level



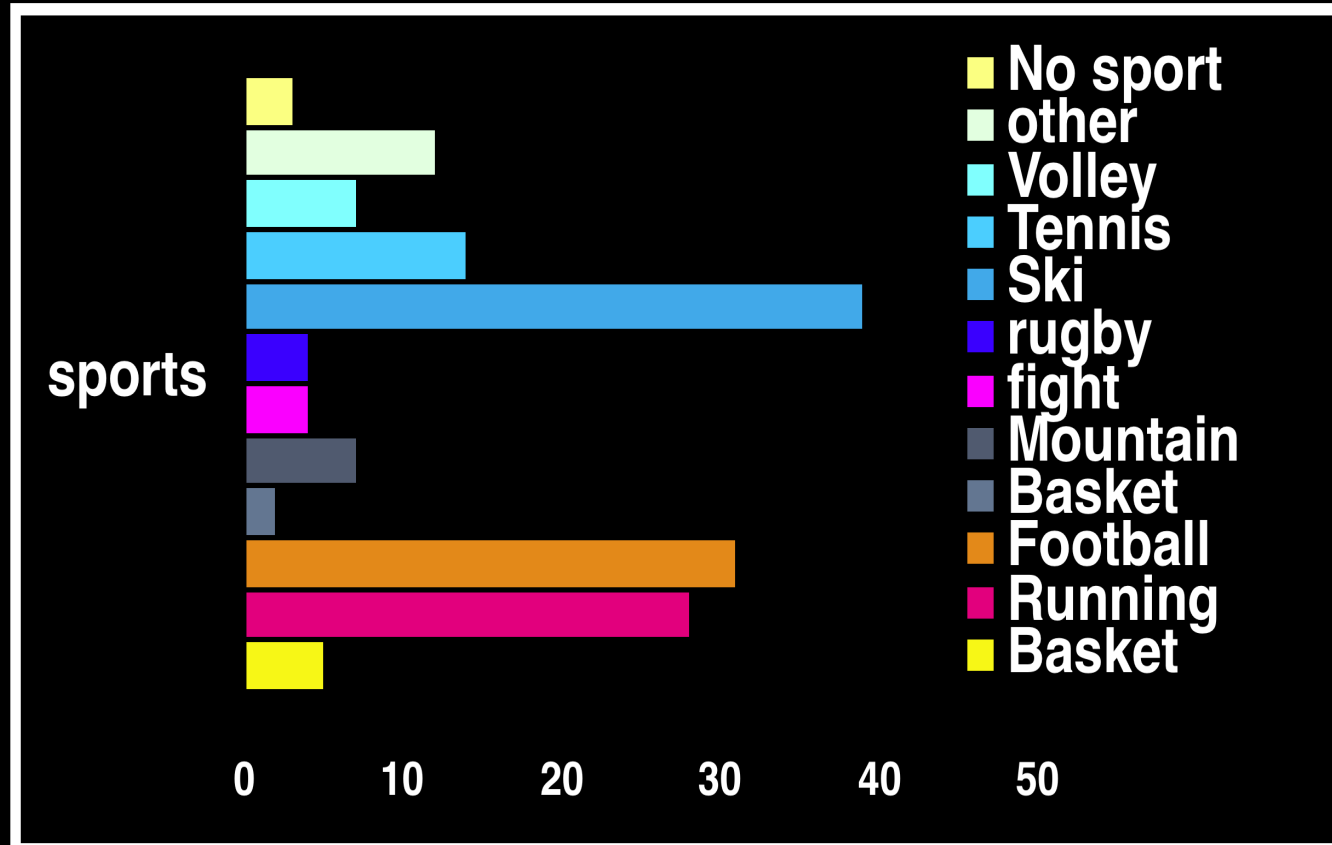
Functional results



IKDC score : 61 % excellent + good

A.R.P.E.GE : 60 % excellent + good

Sport before trauma

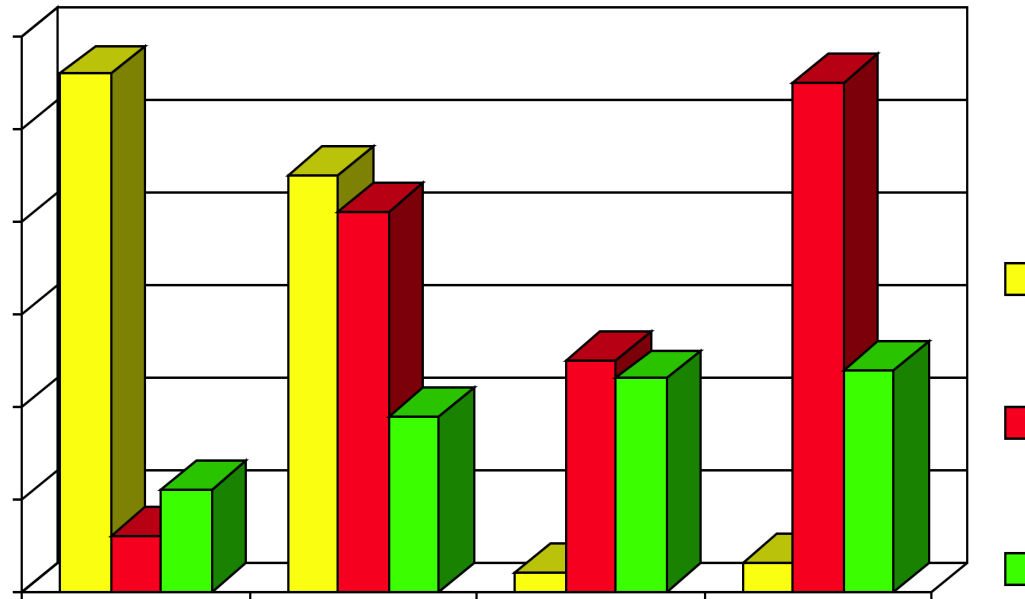


Competition : 58

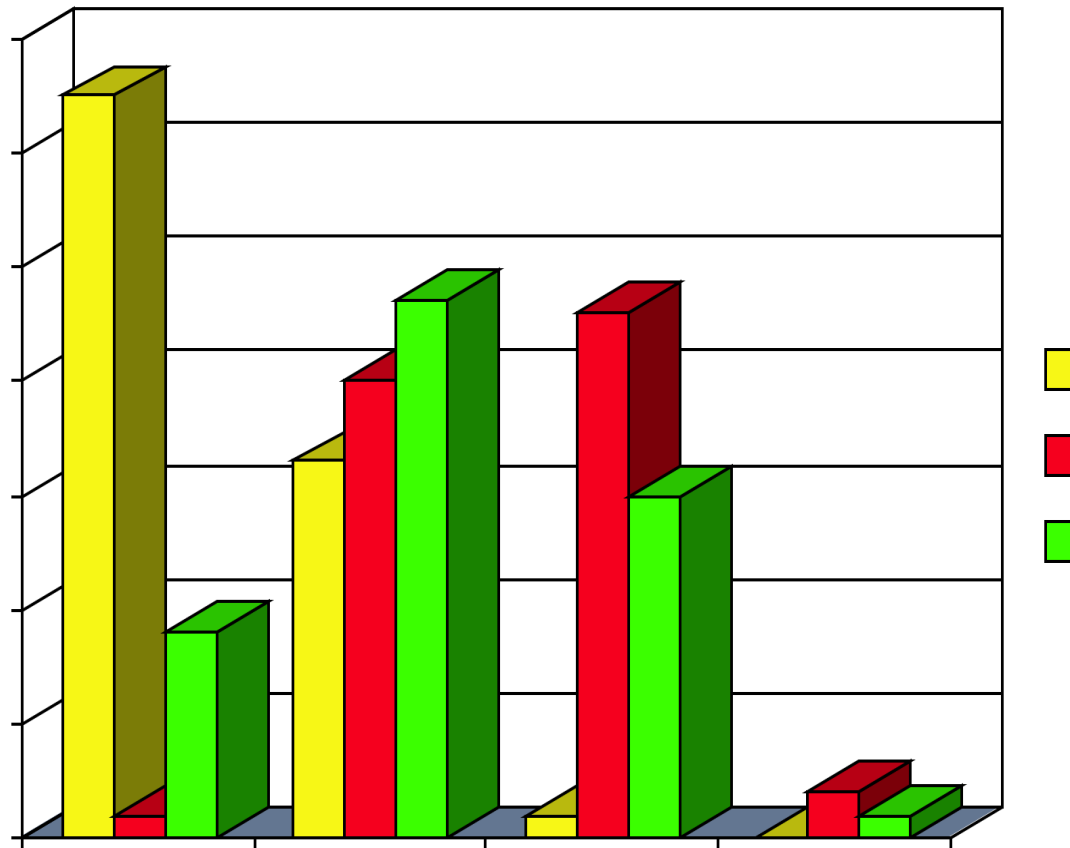
Recreative : 35

Sport activity

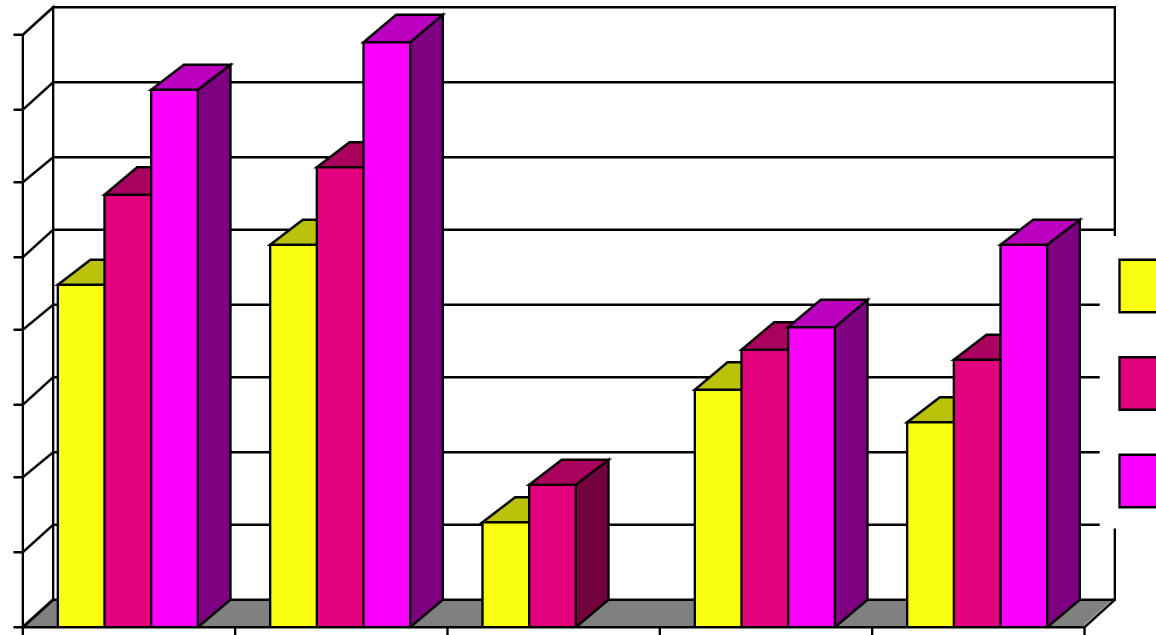
- Satisfaction expressed by the patients : 88 %
- **78 % of the patients return to sport activities**
- Sport with pivot : 30 % (competition : 17 %)
- 14 patients stop sport for other reasons



Evolution of sport activity level



Arthrometric evolution



KT-1000 Arthrometer

KT 1 : 6g n

KT 2 : 8g n

KT 3 : maxi-manual

Patellar height modifications

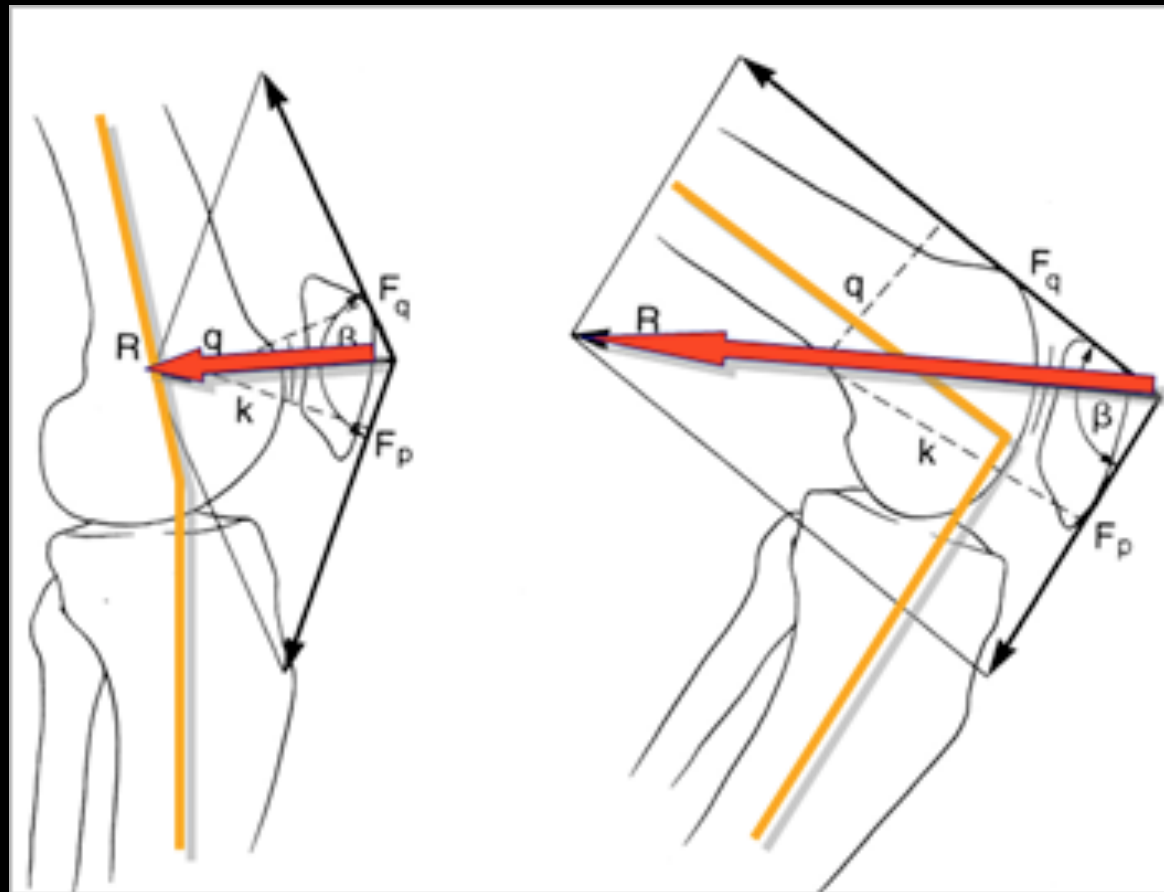
Comparison of 3 different index

	Preop	Post-op	Difference
▪ Blackburne	0.72 ± 0.17	0.69 ± 0.16	- 0.028
▪ Caton	0.87 ± 0.16	0.86 ± 0.15	- 0.01
▪ Insall	1.11 ± 0.19	1.07 ± 0.20	- 0.037

No significative modifications for patella



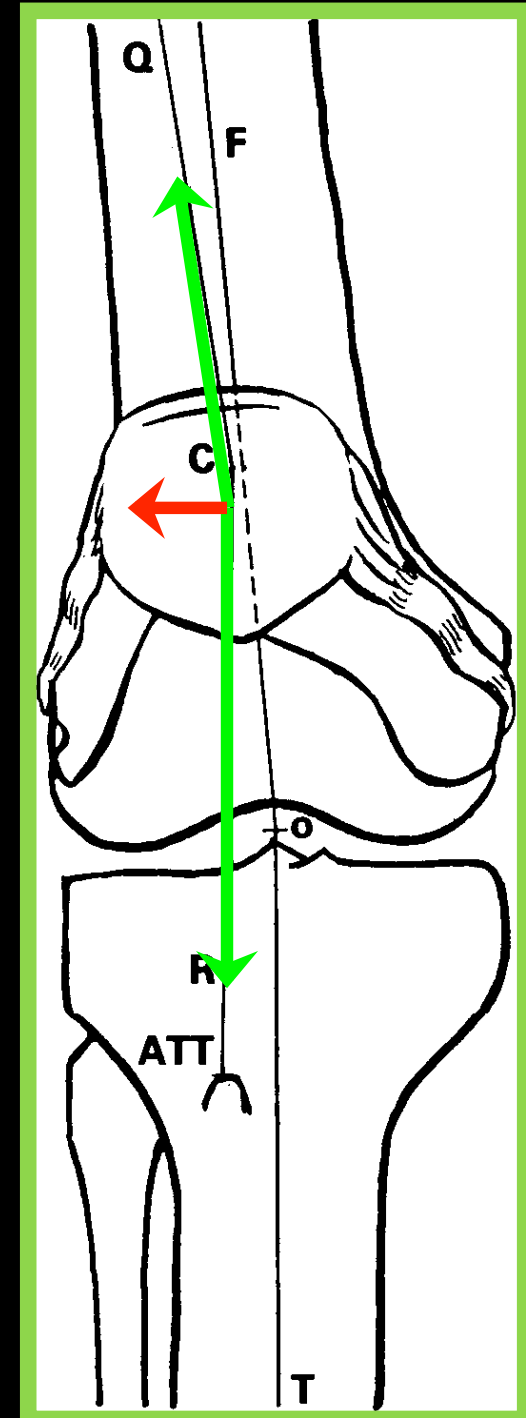
Fixation	Ultimate Failure Load (N)	Stiffness (N/m)
Patellar Tendon		
Metal interference screw ¹⁹	558	—
Bioabsorbable interference screw ¹⁹	552	—
Soft Tissue (Femoral)		
Bone Mulch Screw (Arthrotek, Warsaw, IN) ²⁴	1,112	115
EndoButton (Smith & Nephew Endoscopy, Andover, MA) ²⁴	1,086	79
RigidFix (Ethicon, Somerville, NJ) ²⁴	868	77
SmartScrew ACL (Linvatec, Largo, FL) ²⁴	794	96
BioScrew (Linvatec) ²⁴	589	66
RCI Screw (Smith & Nephew Endoscopy) ²⁴	546	68
Soft Tissue (Tibial)		
Intrafix (Ethicon) ²⁵	1,332	223
WasherLoc (Arthrotek) ²⁵	975	87
Tandem spiked washer ²⁵	769	69
SmartScrew ACL ²⁵	665	115
BioScrew ²⁵	612	91
SoftSilk (Acufex Microsurgical, Mansfield, MS) ²⁵	471	61



The quadriceps provides the greatest compressive force near extension when the contact area of the patellofemoral joint is smallest. Thus, a high force on a small area produces considerable patellofemoral joint reaction forces.

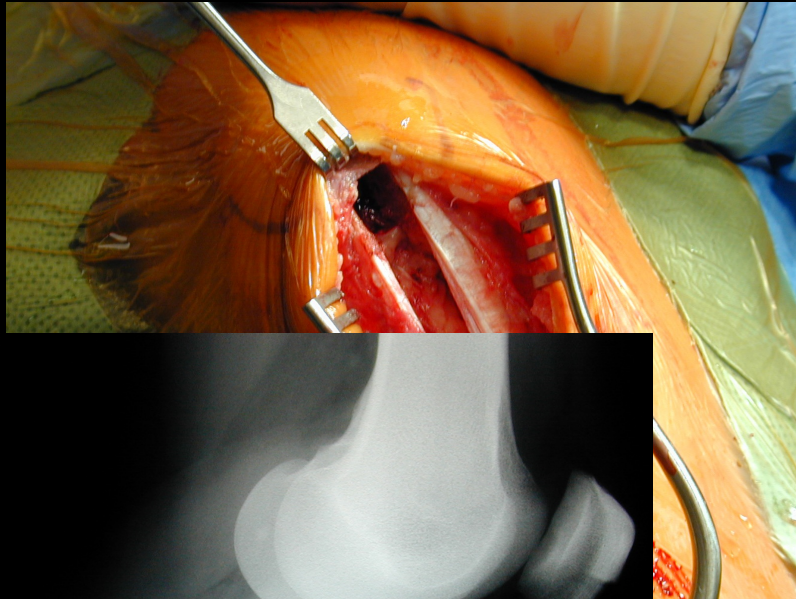
Frontal Plane PF Joint Mechanics: Quadriceps (Q) Angle

- Resultant force has a tendency to laterally translate the patella



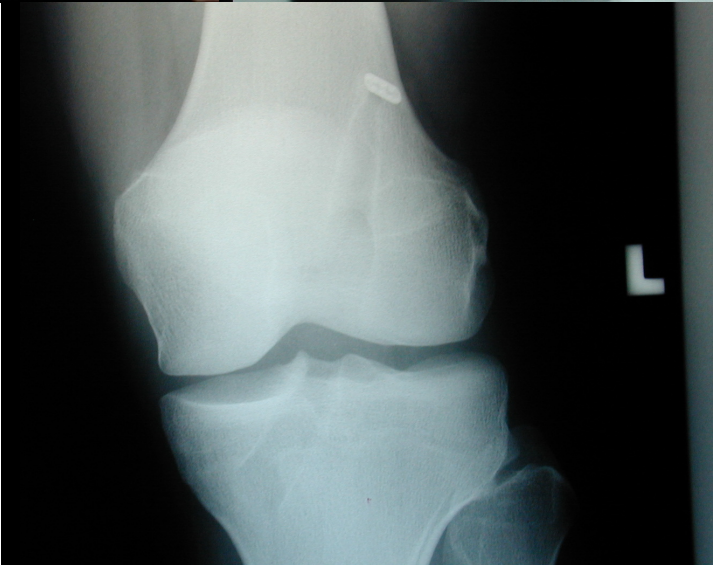
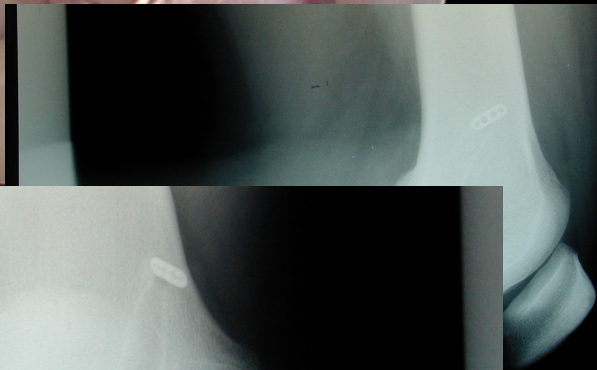
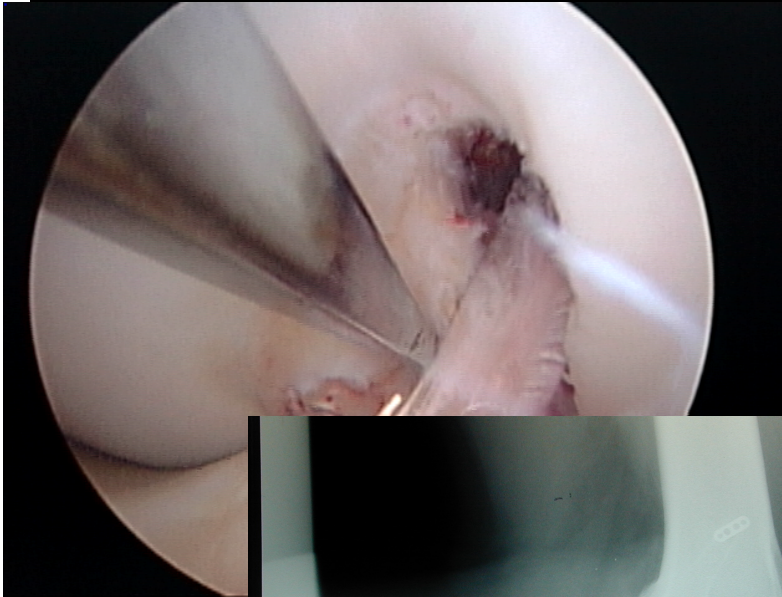
Activity	Q-Force	% Body Weight
Walking	850 N	1/2 x BW
Bike	850 N	1/2 x BW
Stair Ascend	1500 N	3.3 x BW
Stair Descend	4000 N	5 x BW
Jogging	5000 N	7 x BW
Squatting	5000 N	7 x BW
Deep Squatting	15000 N	20 x BW

Bone-Patellar tendon-Bone



- Solid fixation – 700 N
 - Kurowsaka
- “Matched” stiffness to ACL
- Patient ‘feel’

Hamstring tendons



- Fixation strength
 - Variable
 - Newer fixation better
 - Interference screws, posts, loops
- “Slippage”
- Loss of ACL agonist muscles
- Delayed healing potential

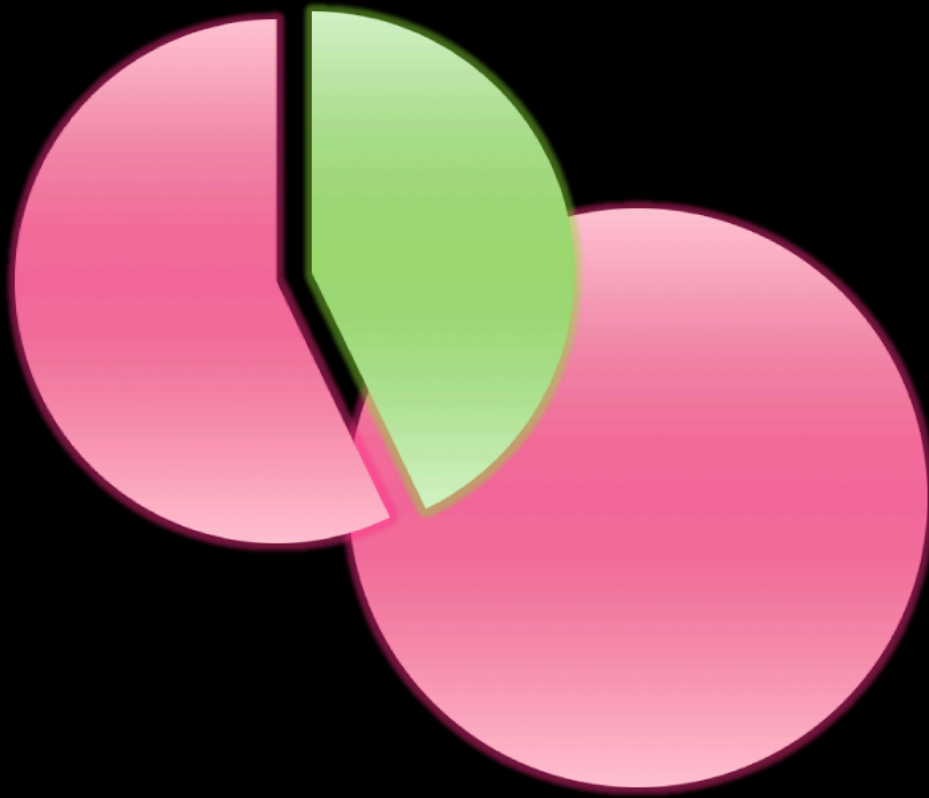
Allograft tendons

- Patellar tendon, Achilles tendon, anterior tibialis, hamstring tendons
 - Fixation
 - Host-graft reactions
 - “Friendly” environment for healing
 - Lack of donor site morbidity
 - No scar
 - Early failure rate?

Patellar Tendon

Hamstrings

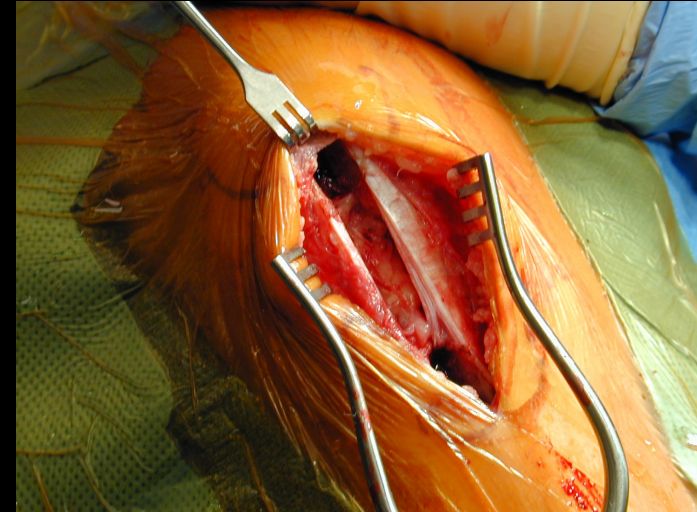
Quadriceps Tendon



Graft Comparison

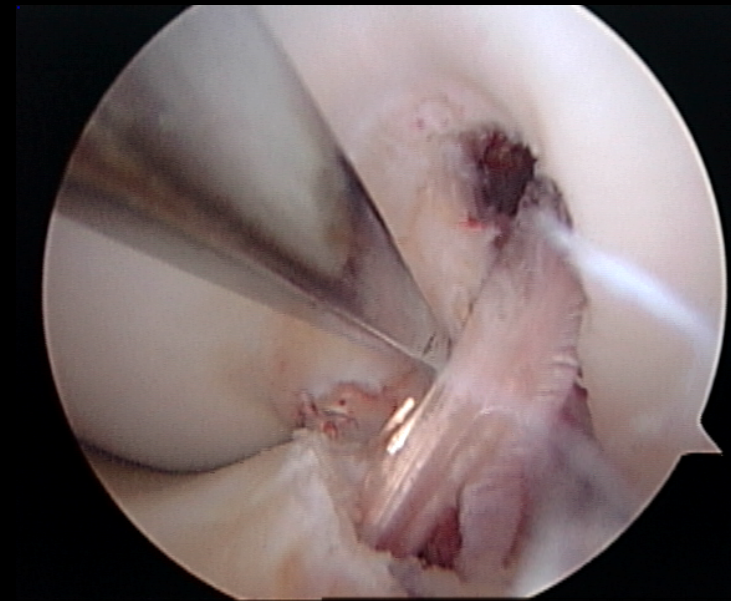
B-PT-B Autograft

- patellar pain, 4% -40%
- patellar baja may develop
- incidence patellar pain lower with immediate and aggressive rehab
- pain usually resolves after 3-6 months



Hamstring Tendon Autograft

- 3 years post ham. muscle strength about 95%
- evidence of post-harvest firm scar formation
- soreness harvest area noted up to 3 months, not major patient complaint
- saphenous neuralgia



Graft Comparison

Allografts

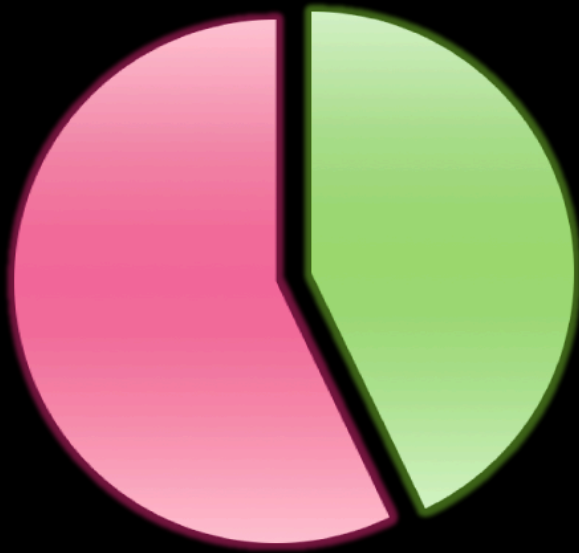
- lack of donor site morbidity
- fixation
- host-graft reactions
- no scar
- early failure rate?



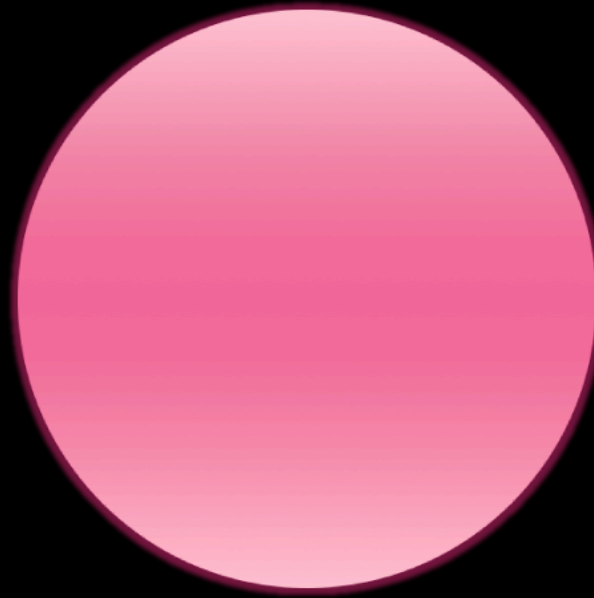
Frequency

- It is currently one of the most common orthopedic procedures in the world
- 6th frequent orthopedic surgery in US
- 100.000 ACL tears each year
- 75.000 annually primary ACL reconstruction
- 3000-1000 revision

Patellar Tendon



Hamstrings



Quadriceps Tendon





