

Complications Post ACL Recon Discussions Points Knee stiffness early loss of motion – 2 weeks PO late loss of motion – 8-9 wks PO Quadriceps atrophy Valgus knee collapse Varus alignment Increased post-op graft laxity The Best Treatment Strategies

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ACL/STG Recon 2 wks PO • PROM 0-10-115 • Partial lateral meniscetomy • Anterior knee pain • Swollen 3.5cm ↑ • Quad inhibition • ???







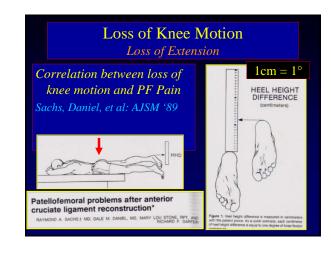


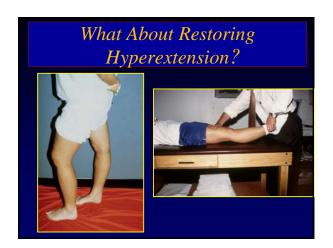


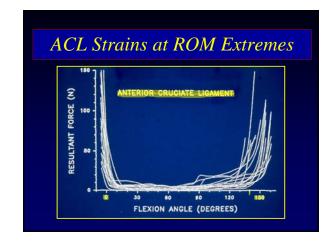
Post-Op ACL/PTG Patient

- 8 weeks post-op ACL/PTG surgery
- Present motion: 0-20-90°
- Lateral meniscus repair
- Knee joint normal otherwise
- Any additional information would be helpful?
 - contralateral knee joint PROM (7-0-147)
 - surgery timing (injury to surgery)
 - concomitant injuries (medial capsule, MCL)





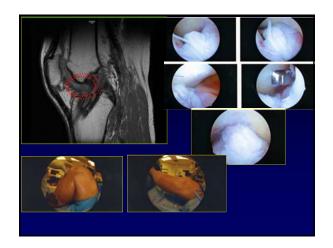


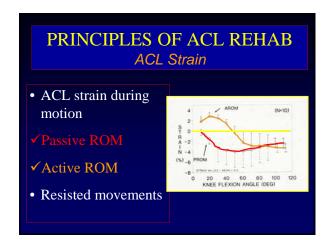


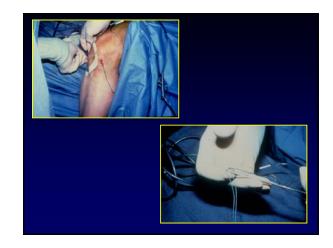












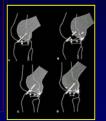




Loss of Motion Unidirectional

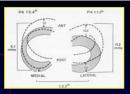
- Graft placement anterior placement
- Rehab plan
 - Gradually increase flexion
 - Increase in laxity
 - Stretch, AAROM, PROM, bicycle
 - Joint mobs (posterior, when appropriate)
 - Extension





Loss of Motion Unidirectional

- Concomitant surgeries (meniscus repair, MCL)
- ✓ Excessive soft tissue scarring, capsular, hypomobility, decrease knee motion
- Rehab techniques: Soft tissue mobilization, stretch hamstrings / quadriceps, laser therapy, motion, motion & more motion





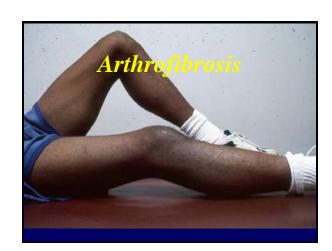
Loss of Knee Motion

Keys to Treatment

- Prevention is the key!!!
- If complications occur careful assessment
- Determine cause treat cause
- Not one approach fits all!!
- Some complications occur in combination







Treatment of Post-Operative Knee Stiffness

Loss of Motion

- Arthrofibrosis
- Does everyone with a loss of motion have arthrofibrosis ??
- Defined as:
 - » Inflamed "angry" knee
 - » With loss of motion
 - » Loss of knee flexion & extension
 - » Often not swollen but HOT !!!

May lead to progressive knee degeneration





Rehabilitation of Arthrofibrosis How Aggressive?

Conservative ← Aggressive

- ✓ specific treatment program
- ✓ prevention is the key…but
- ✓ patellar mobility
- ✓ reduce inflammation (NSAID, Medrol Dose Pack ,PT)
- ✓ LLLD extension (start & finish)
- ✓ knee flexion ROM 3x
- Frequent bouts of moderate/light intensity stretching & ROM
- Cast, brace, night splint, ???



CAUTION!

EXTREMELY HOT

ARTHROFIBROSIS FOLLOWING ACL SURGERY

• Occurs in 7-11% of patients

Harner: AJSM '92 Mohtadi: AJSM '91 Shelbourne: AJSM '91

• Defined: LOM due to excessive scarring or contracture

- » Extension loss of 70 or more
- » Flexion limited 120^{0} or less
- » Both by 3 months post-op

Paulos: LE in Spts Med (Nicholas & Herschman: 1986)



Shelbourne: AJSM '91

• Arthrofibrosis in acute ACL reconstructions -

The effect of timing of surgery

- Retrospective study of 169 acute ACL
 - » 33 patients surgery 0-7 days
 - » 65 patients surgery 8-21 days
 - » 71 patients surgery more than 21 days
- Group I, II higher loss ROM
- Subgroups A & B = acceleration rehab

Hunter, et al: Arthroscopy '96

- Surgical timing on post-operative motion & stability following ACL
- 185 acute ACL rupture, skiers
- Prospectively assigned to 4 groups:
 - » Surgery within 48 hours
 - » Surgery between 3-7 days
 - » Surgery between 1-3 weeks
 - » Surgery more than 3 weeks
- No significant difference between groups

Majors, Woodfin,: AJSM '96

- 119 consecutive ACL reconstructions
- Follow-up data on 111 surgeries
 - » 21 early surgery (1-14 days)
 - » 22 delayed surgery (15-28 days)
 - » 68 late surgeries (more than 28 days)
- All patients early and delayed obtained full ROM
- 93% of late surgeries (5 patients not full extension)



Guerra, Joyce, Wilk et al: AOSSM '96

Surgical timing on incidence of arthrofibrosis

ACL/PTG surgery with accelerated rehab

- 571 patients, retrospective analysis (90-94)
 - » 158 acute (less than 2 weeks)
 - » 107 subacute (2-6 weeks)
 - » 306 chronic (greater than 6 weeks)
- Approximately 4% incidence (3.8, 3.7 & 4.2%)- incidence rate the same

"Timing of surgery should be individualized"



Complications Post ACL Recon Discussions Points

- Knee stiffness
- ✓ Quadriceps atrophy
 - ✓ Early quad inhibition
 - ✓ Late quad atrophy
- ✓ Valgus knee collanse
- ✓ Varus alignment
- ✓ Increased post-op graft laxity



The Best Treatment Strategies

Following ACL Reconstruction *Quadriceps Muscle Inhibition*

- Quadriceps muscle inhibition during early phase of rehab (first 2-4 weeks)
- Inability to produce good quad isometric
- Quadriceps are atrophied
- ✓ Best Treatment Strategies:

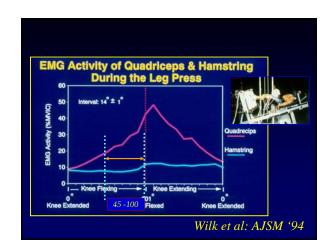
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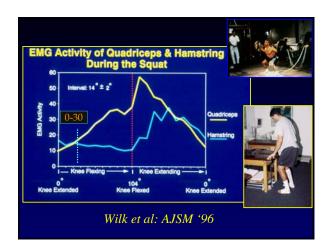
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Following ACL Reconstruction Quadriceps Muscle Inhibition - Early

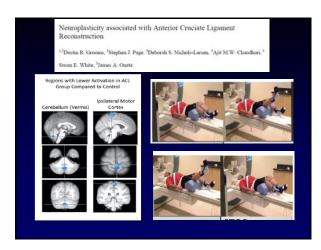
- Quadriceps activation:
 - ✓ Quad sets & SLR flexion
 - ✓EMS quads 60 knee flexion isometrics
 - ✓ Manual resistance short arc knee extension
 - ✓ Other exercises:
 - ✓ Leg Press 45-100°
 - ✓ Wall slides
 - ✓ Biofeedback to quads









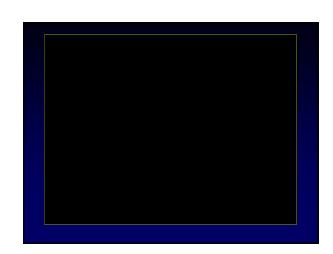


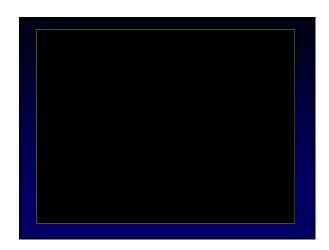
Following ACL Reconstruction Quadriceps Muscle Inhibition - Late

- Quadriceps Atrophy & Inhibition Present:
- Evaluate quad activation
- If minimal EMS for muscle re-education
- If muscle contracts but lacks size:
 - ✓ utilize specific exercises
 - ✓ BFR
 - ✓ intensity
 - ✓ protein rich diet

17 yo female 80% Quad Deficit













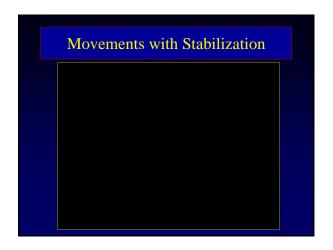


Following ACL Reconstruction Valgus Knee Collapse

- Treatment Options:
- Assess Q angle
- Dynamic Q angle Hip abd/ER/Ext strength
- Core control
- Movement skills

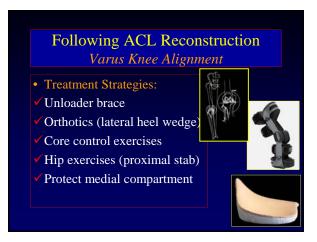


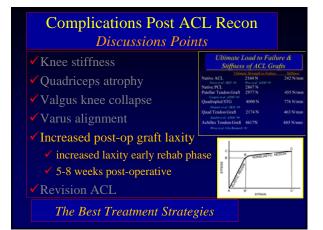












Beynnon, Johnson, Naud, et al: AJSM '11
PRCT Accelerated (n=24) vs Nonaccelerated (n=18) ACL rehab
Assessed at 3,6,12 & 24 mos post-op
Accelerated group – greater thigh strength
No difference in laxity between groups Accel grp(3.2 mm) vs NonAccel (4.5 mm)
Majority of increase in laxity occurred during healing when exercises were advanced & activity level increased

