

Post-operative rehabilitation following multi-ligament knee reconstruction

Twin Cities Orthopedics Virtual Grand Rounds

Jill Monson, PT, OCS

Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO)

Training HAUS

Eagan, MN | Edina, MN

Thank you

- Karie Nash
- TCO team members contributing to virtual grand rounds
- Dr. LaPrade and our multi-specialty complex knee team
- Our patients

AASPT 2021

Inaugural
Annual Meeting &
Scientific Conference



Overview

- Epidemiology of multi-ligament knee injury (MLKI)
- Scientific foundations for post-operative precautions
 - Biology, biomechanics, confounders
- Early post-operative rehabilitations priorities
 - Recovery → Transition phase emphasis
 - Understanding how to make progressions

Language/Abbreviations

Cruciates:

- ACL: anterior cruciate ligament
- PCL: Posterior cruciate ligament

Medial/Posteromedial Knee:

- MCL: medial collateral ligament
 - dMCL: deep MCL
 - sMCL: superficial MCL
- PMC: posteromedial corner
- POL: posterior oblique ligament

Lateral/Posterolateral Knee:

- ALL: anterolateral ligament
- BF: Biceps femoris
- ITB: iliotibial band
- FCL: fibular collateral ligament
- PLC: Posterolateral corner
- PFL: Popliteofibular ligament
- PT: Popliteus tendon

Other:

- CPN: common peroneal nerve
- MLKI: multi-ligament knee injury
- PF: Patellofemoral

MLKI EPIDEMIOLOGY



Multi-Ligament Knee Injury (MLKI)

- **MLKI** = Tear of ≥ 2 of the 4 major knee ligaments (ACL, PCL, MCL/PMC, FCL/PLC)
 - Incidence: $<0.02\%$ of all orthopaedic injuries
 - Rihn JA. J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2004; Kaitlin M. Harv Orthop J. 2013
- **Knee Dislocation** = rupture of both cruciates with or without additional grade III medial or lateral side injury
 - Incidence: 0.001% to 0.013% per year
 - Likely higher d/t spontaneous reduction
 - Hoover N. Surg Clin North Am. 1961; Meyers M. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1971; Shields L. J Trauma. 1969

I'M JUST GONNA SEND IT



Status Post:

- 1) Revision PCLr,
- 2) Revision FCLr/PTFJr with hamstring autograft
- 3) Revision MM root repair
- 4) Biceps femoris repair
- 5) Peroneal Nerve Neurolysis

Jill Slide

Demographic Shift = Expectation Shift?

- Males > Females
- Younger (Mean age 37 ± 15 years)
 - Rate of knee dislocation inversely related to patient age
- More sporting injuries - MLKI rates with skiing (29.4%) and ball sports (6.9%)
 - MVA only 19.2% in same study
 - *Moatshe et al. OJSM 2017; Schlumberger et al. KSSTA 2020*
- **Return to Sport:**
 - Reporting inconsistent
 - Overall RTS 53%, competitive athletes 22%
 - *Everhart et al. Arthroscopy 2018*

- 4) Biceps femoris repair
- 5) Peroneal Nerve Neurolysis

I'M JUST G

Mechanism of Injury

- High energy trauma (MVA, fall from height) or low energy trauma (sports)
 - 50.3-51% high energy trauma
 - 47-49.3% low energy trauma
 - Engebretsen et al. KSSTA 2009; Moatshe et al. Arthroscopy 2017
- Often knee hyperextension + varus or valgus force
- Typically a contact injury
- Concomitant “trauma” injuries



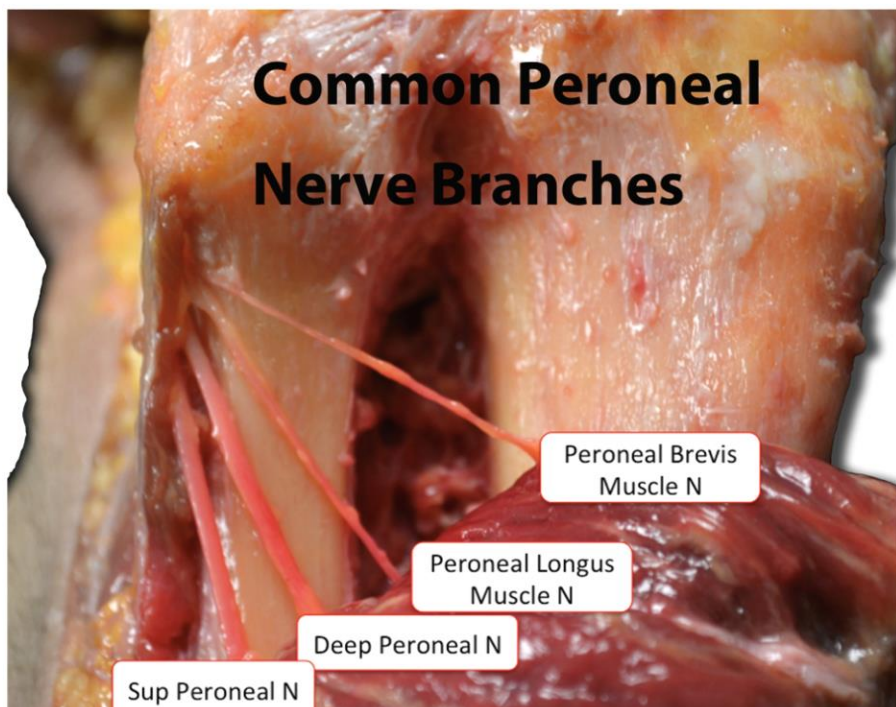
Injury Grading: Schenk's Classification

Table 1 Explaining Schenck's knee dislocation classification

KD I	Injury to single cruciate + collaterals
KD II	Injury to ACL and PCL with intact collaterals
KD III M	Injury to ACL, PCL, MCL
KD III L	Injury to ACL, PCL, FCL
KD IV	Injury to ACL, PCL, MCL, FCL
KD V	Dislocation + fracture

Additional caps of "C" and "N" are utilized for associated injuries. "C" indicates an arterial injury. "N" indicates a neural injury, such as the tibial or, more commonly, the peroneal nerve. ACL, anterior cruciate ligament; FCL, fibular collateral ligament; KD, Knee Dislocation Classification I–V; MCL, media collateral ligament.

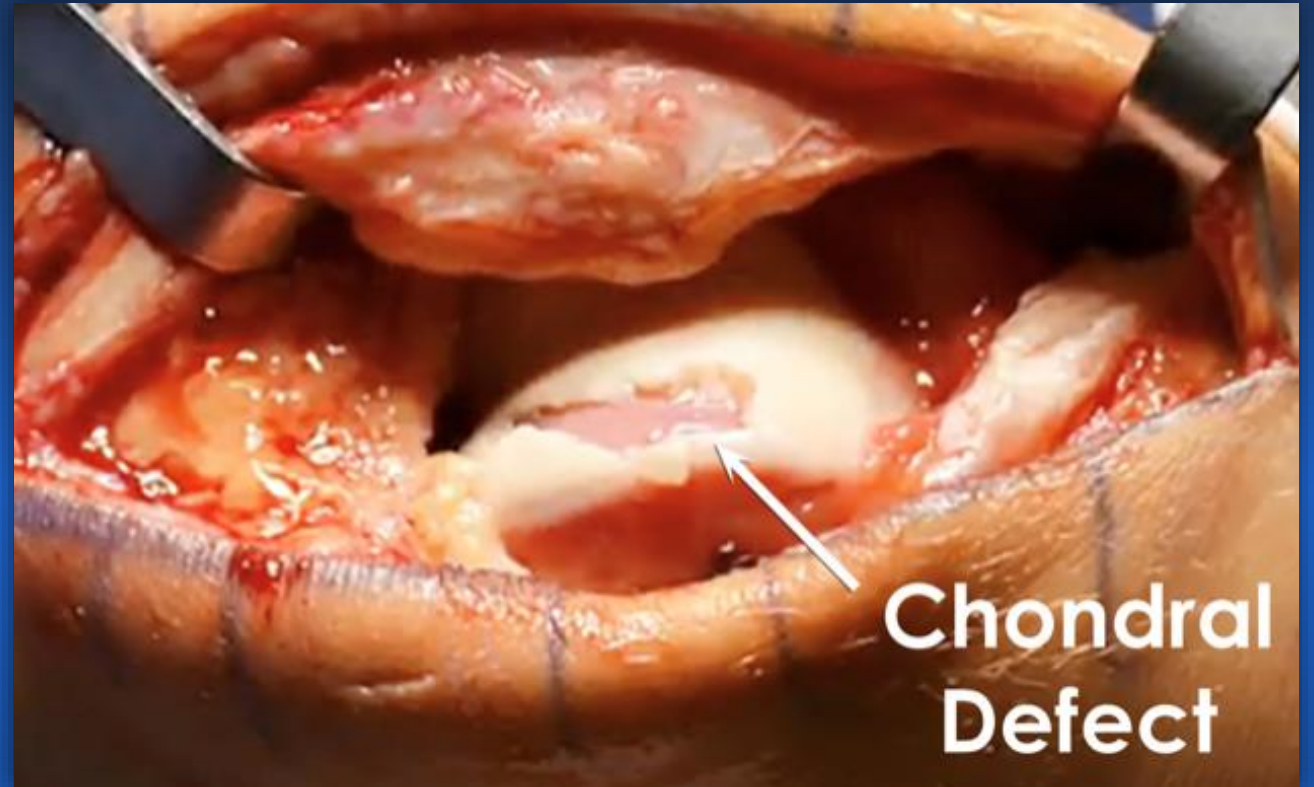
Neurovascular (NV) Injury



- Higher risk when both cruciates are involved
- With knee dislocation (compared to MLKI alone):
 - Common Peroneal Nerve (CPN) Injury: 38% (14% MLKI)
 - Popliteal artery injury: 18% (4% MLKI)
 - Kahan et al JBJS 2021
- PLC injury = 42 times higher odds of CPN injury, 9.2 times higher odds of popliteal a. injury
 - Moatshe G. et al. Arthroscopy 2017

Concomitant Joint Injury

- In presence of MLKI:
 - Meniscal injury: 37.3-55%
 - Cartilage injury: 28.3-48%
 - Moatshe G. et al. Arthroscopy 2017
 - Krych A. et al. KSSTA 2015



SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION FOR POST-OP PRECAUTIONS

Foundations for Post-Op Precautions

Biology

- Tissue-specific healing timeframes & considerations

Biomechanics

- Joint biomechanics
- Structure-specific considerations
- Movement/exercise-specific considerations

Confounders

- Intrinsic & extrinsic factors
- Modifiable & non-modifiable

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Early Recovery

Multiple, large soft tissue incisions

Concomitant extra-articular work
(soft tissue repair):

- Biceps femoris tendon, IT band, lateral capsule, lateral gastrocnemius tendon

Concomitant intra-articular work:

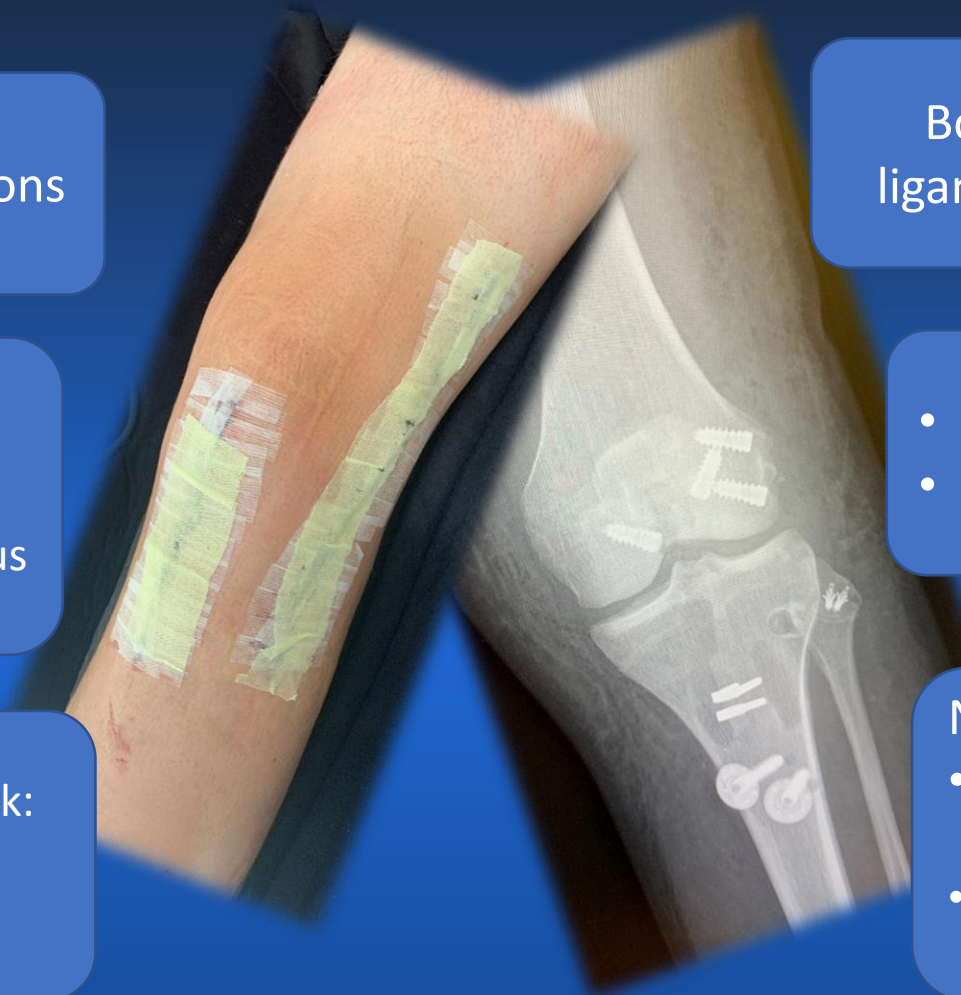
- Meniscus repair
- Fracture fixation

Bone tunnels at multiple
ligament reconstruction sites

- Autograft and allograft tissue
- Various fixation methods

Neurovascular Issues:

- Nerve injury
(Common peroneal nerve)
- Vascular injury/bypass
(Popliteal artery)



Biology: Overview of Healing

Hemostasis & Inflammation (immediately through day 3)

Hematoma

Inflammatory mediators released

Macrophages clear wound site

Growth factors & cytokines released

VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) stimulates angiogenesis

Proliferation (3 days to 14 days)

Scaffold of specific tissue type is built (type III collagen, bone callus, etc.)

Ground substance

Scarring

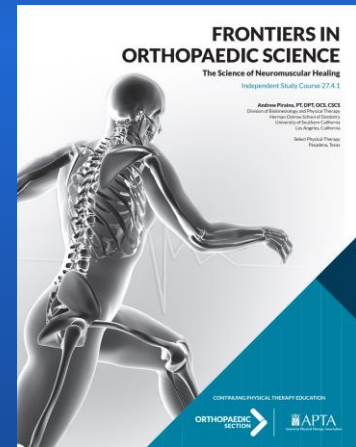
Ongoing angiogenesis

Remodeling/Maturation (14+ days)

Mature tissue type fills in scaffold (Type 1 collagen. Bone, etc.)

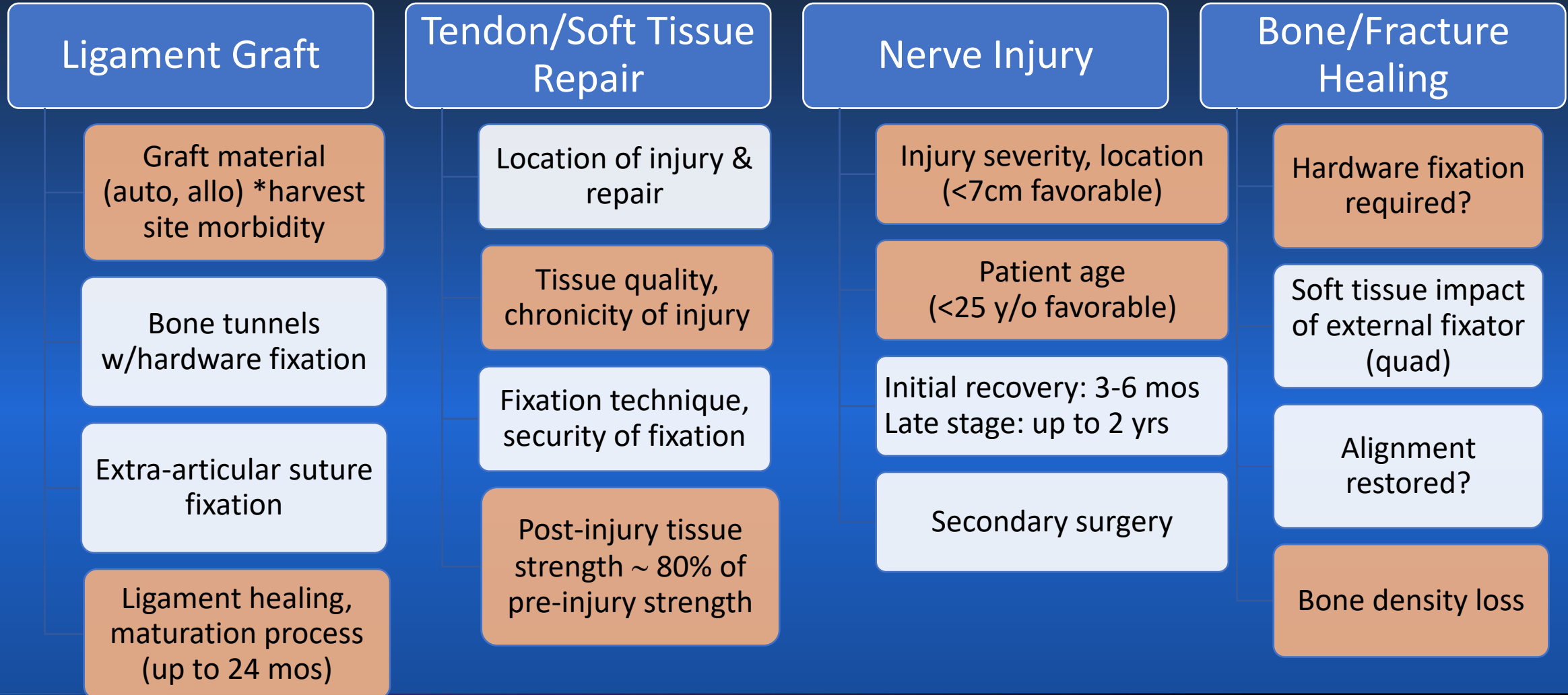
Collagen fibers align, diameter increases, cross-links form

Tissue adapts, strengthens (influenced by mechanical stress)



Piraino A. Frontiers in Orthopaedic Science: The Science of Neuromuscular Healing. 2017 Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.)

Biology: Structure Specific Considerations



*Peskun CJ. CORR 2012; Niall DM. JBJS(Br) 2005;
Woo J. Biomechanics 2006; Piraino 2017; Nagelli Sports Med 2017*

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Biology

Tissue-specific healing timeframes & considerations

Biomechanics

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ANATOMY & BIOMECHANICS

Tibial IR Restraint:

- ACL
- POL (in extension)

Tibial IR Restraint:

- ALL
- PCL (pmb >90 ° flexion)

Anterior

ACL

MCL

Meniscus

MARA

LARA

Lateral

Medial

MPRA

LPRA

PCL

MFLs

PLC

Posterior

Tibial ER Restraint:

- MCL (throughout ROM)
- Meniscus

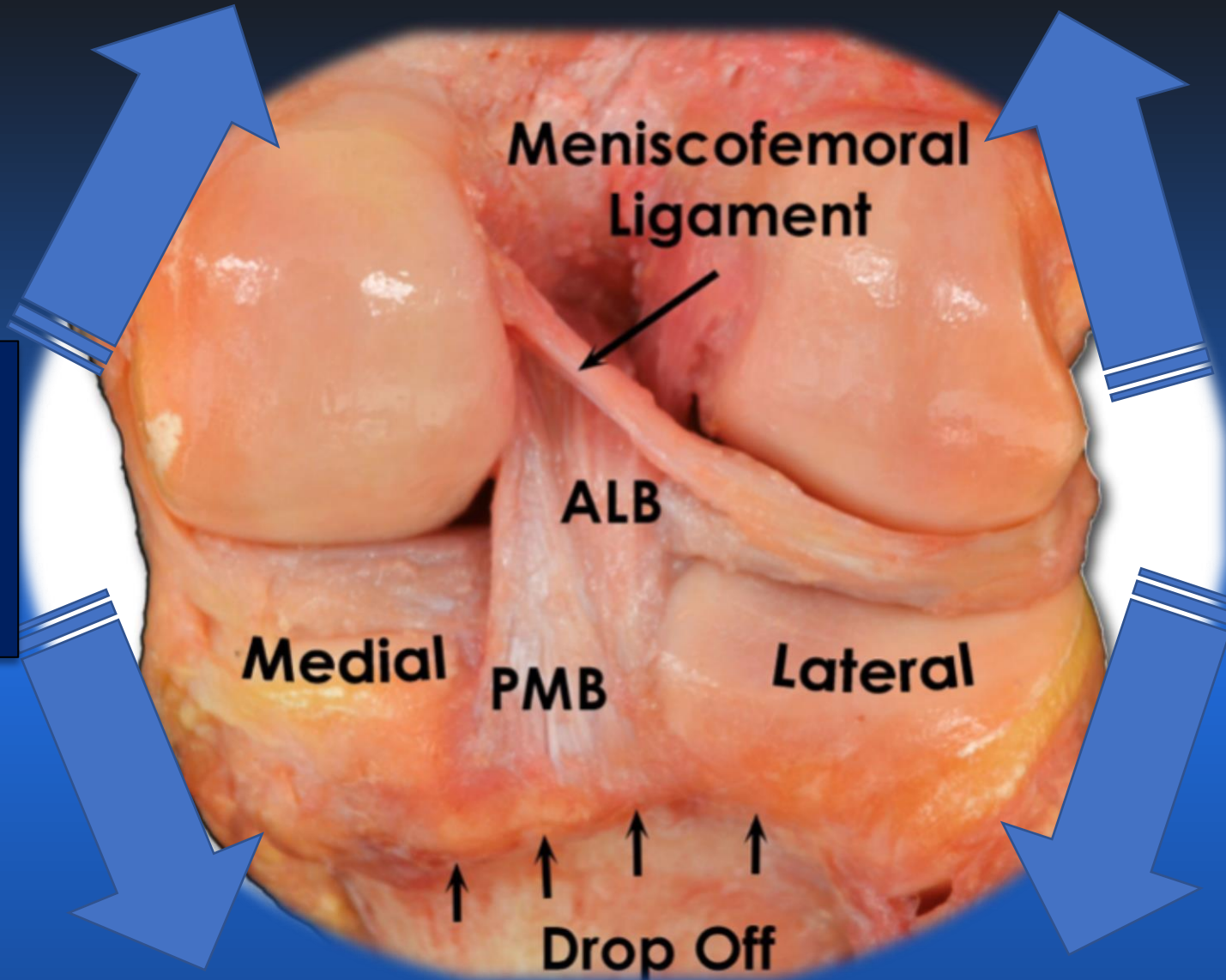
Tibial ER Restraint:

- PCL (>90° flexion)
- FCL/PLC (shallower)

Medial

Valgus Restraint:

- MCL
- POL
- ACL

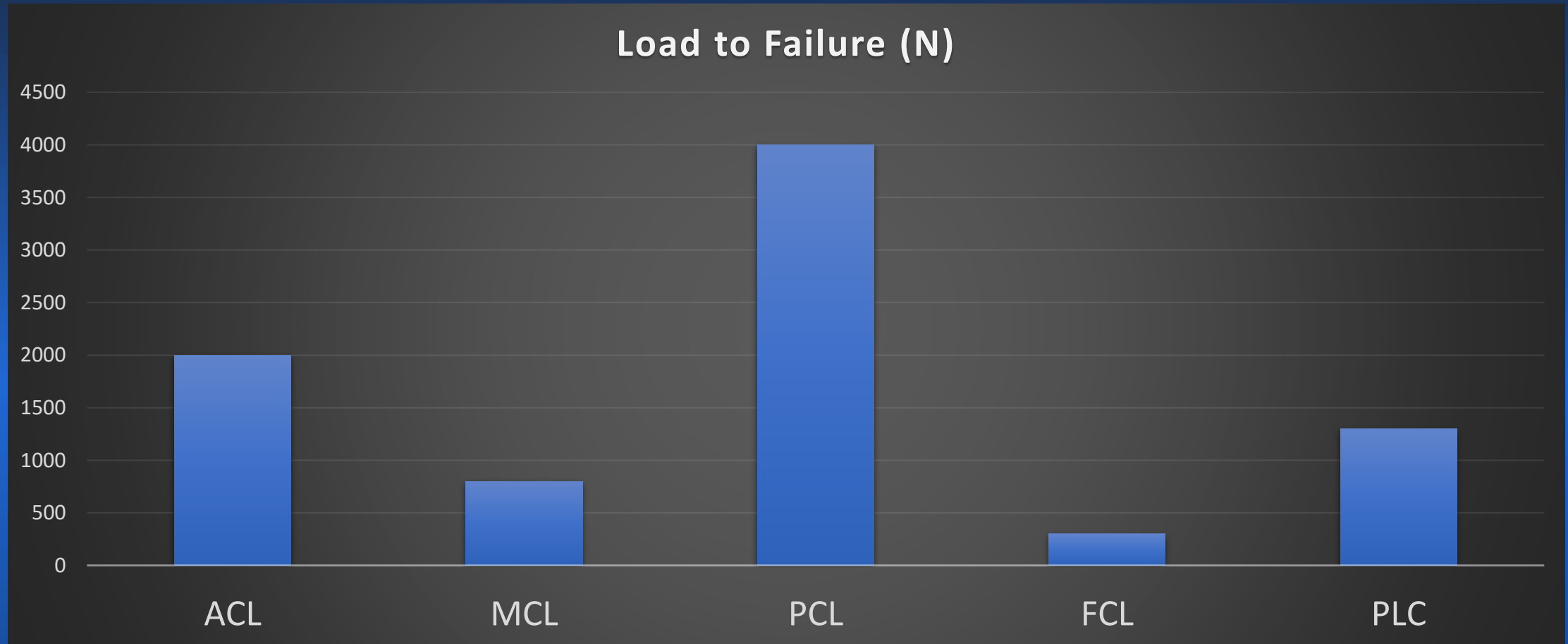


Lateral

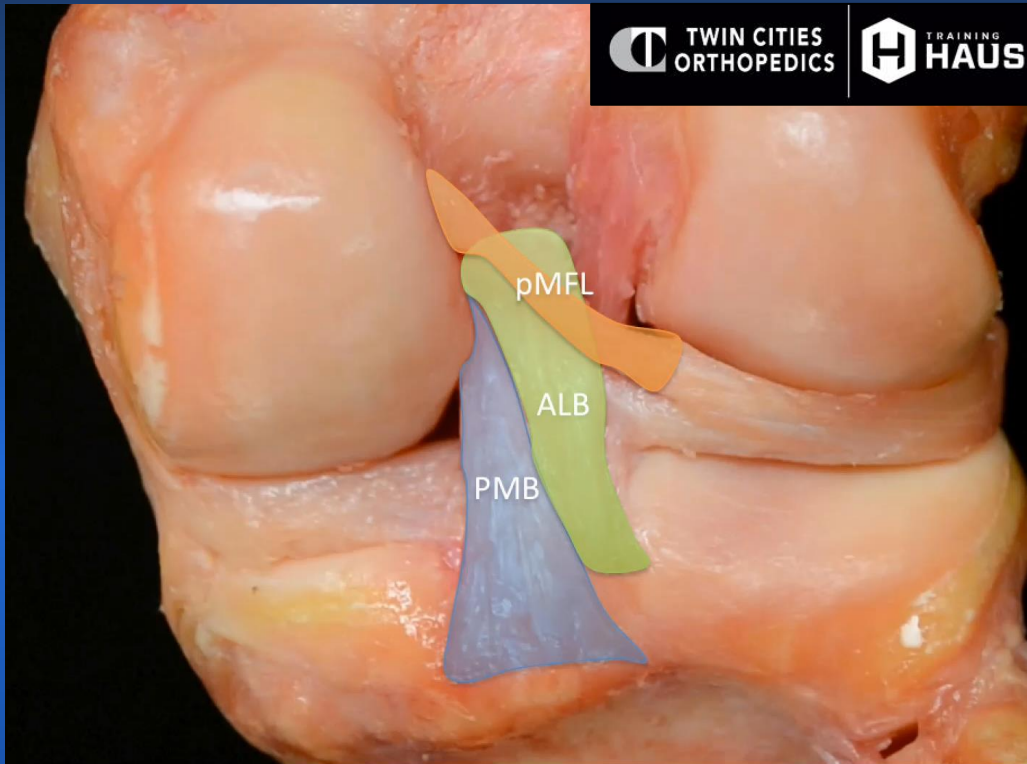
Varus Restraint:

- FCL (PLC)
- Cruciates

Load to Failure



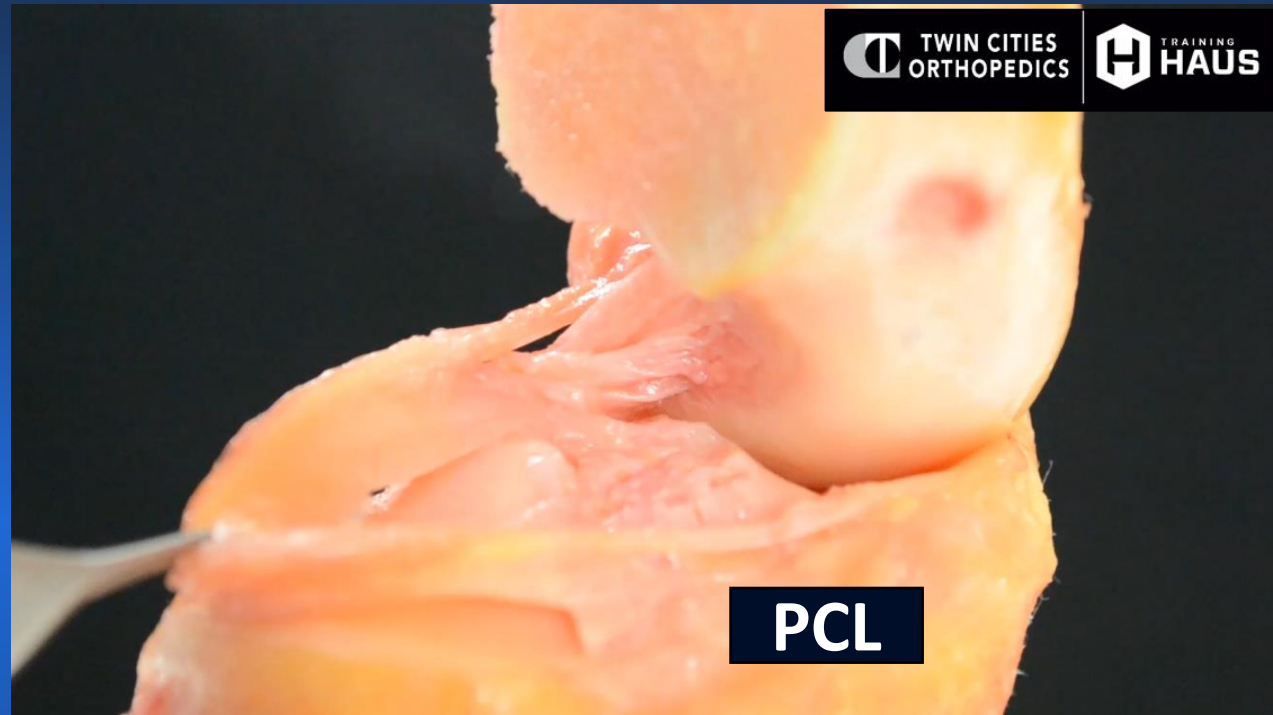
Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL) Anatomy



- 2 distinct PCL bundles:
 - Anterolateral bundle (strongest)
 - Posteromedial bundle
- Codominant contributions to knee stability (between the bundles)
 - Resists **Posterior tibial translation** → Tibial rotation (ER & IR)
- Meniscomfemoral ligaments
 - Anterior (Ligament of Humphrey)
 - Posterior (Ligament of Wrisberg)

Kennedy NI et al. AJSM. 2013 Dec;41(12):2828-38.

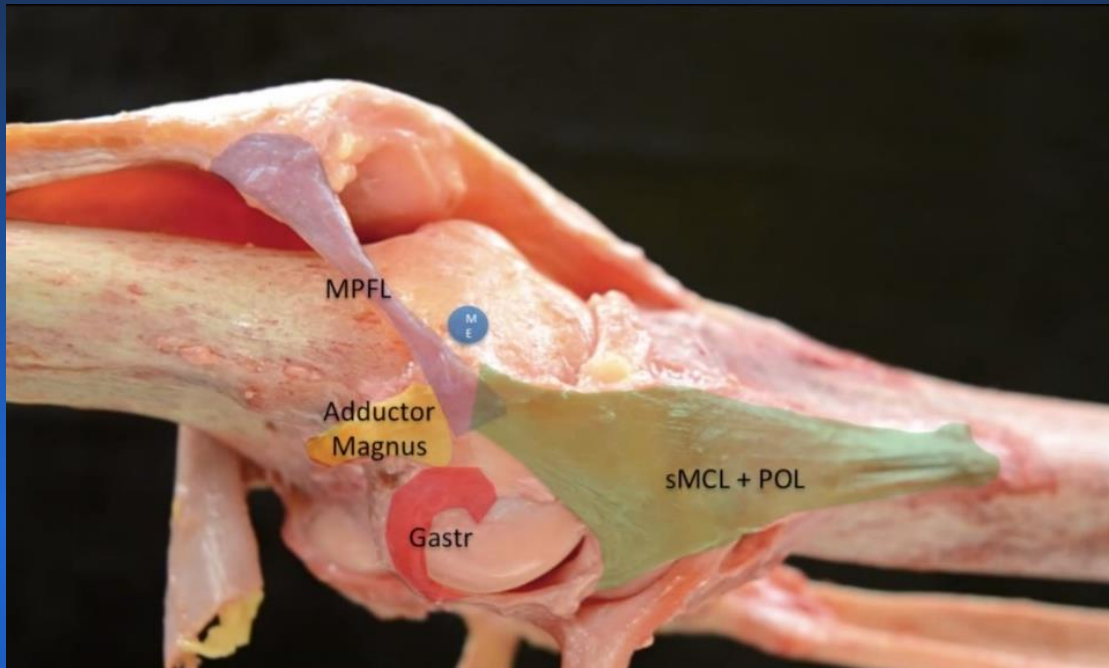
PCL Biomechanics



- **AL bundle:**
 - Lengthens with knee **flexion**
 - AL bundle resists PTT through most of **flexion** (90°)
- **PM bundle:**
 - Lengthens with knee **extension**
 - Resists PTT near full **extension** & resists **hyperextension**
 - PM bundle can resist PTT again in deep, end range **flexion**
- Both provide rotational stability throughout the range
 - More pronounced near 90°

Hosseini Nasab SH et al. PloS one. 2016

Medial Knee Anatomy



- **sMCL**: (superficial MCL)
 - Long, primary stabilizer
 - Proximal & distal tibial attachments
 - Highest load to failure & stiffness
- **dMCL**: (deep MCL aka “mid-third medial capsular ligament”)
 - Short, secondary stabilizer
 - Meniscotibial and meniscomfemoral attachments
 - Lowest load to failure & stiffness
- **POL**: (Posterior oblique ligament)
 - Consists of 3 fascial expansion off distal semimembranosus tendon
 - Merges with posteromedial capsule

LaPrade MD, Kennedy MI, Wijdicks CA, LaPrade RF. SMAR 2015

Medial Knee Biomechanics

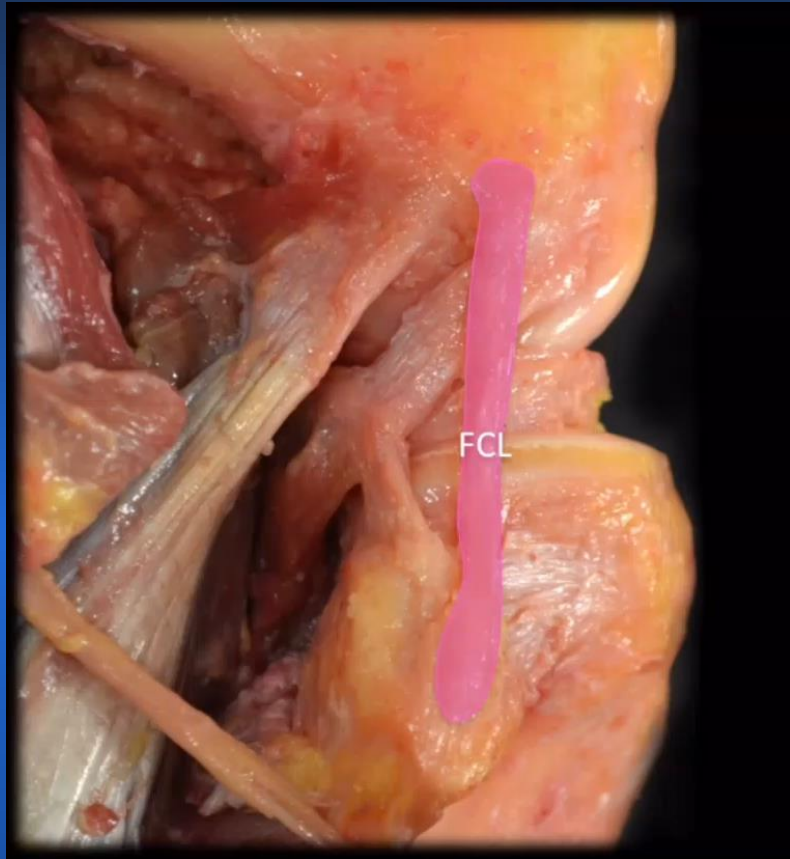


- Anterior bundles elongate with **flexion**
- Posterior bundles elongate with **extension**

- sMCL:
 - Resists valgus (proximal) and tibial rotation (distal) **throughout ROM**
- dMCL:
 - Secondary restraint to valgus & rotation
- POL:
 - Tensions at posteromedial knee in **extension**
 - Resists IR → valgus → ER

LaPrade MD, Kennedy MI, Wijdicks CA, LaPrade RF. SMAR 2015
Hosseini A, Qi W, Tsai TY, Liu Y, Rubash H, Li G. KSSTA

Lateral Knee Anatomy

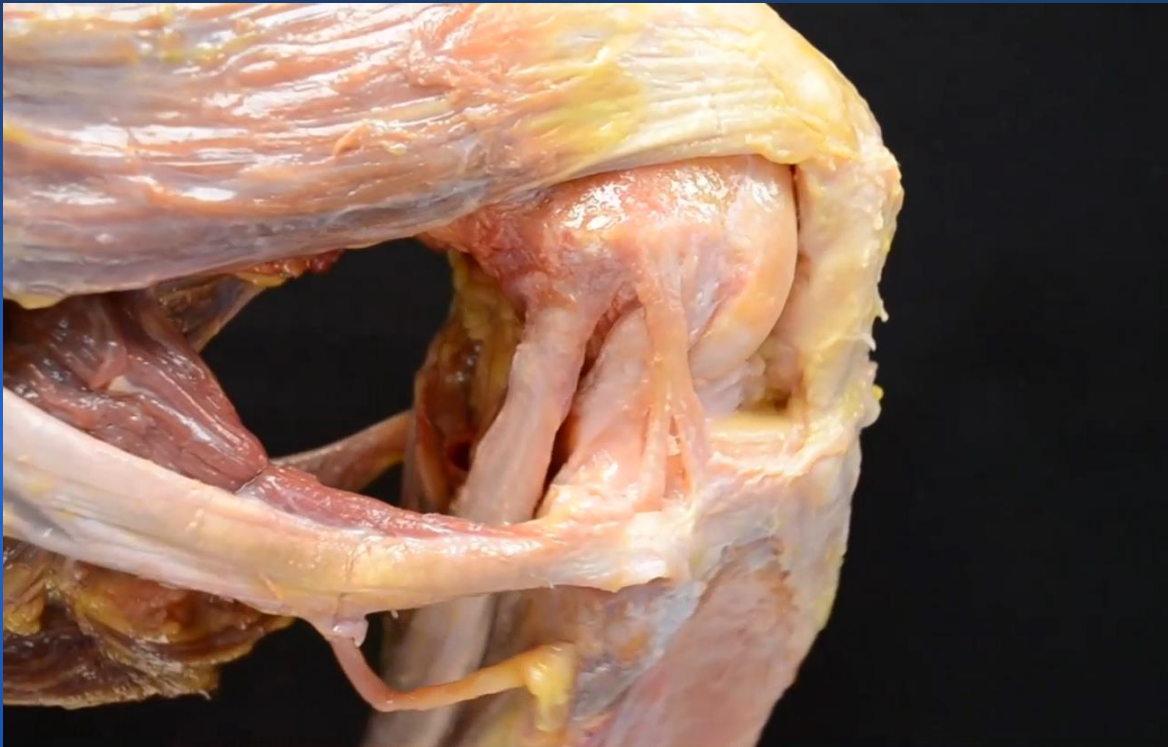


Posterolateral Corner (PLC):

- 3 primary structures:
 - Fibulocolateral ligament (FCL or LCL)
 - Popliteus Tendon (PT)
 - Popliteofibular ligament (PFL, aka “arcuate ligament”)
- Popliteus Tendon is the strongest structure
 - PT (700N) → PFL (298 N) → FCL (295N)

LaPrade RF, et al. AJSM 2005 Sep;33(9):1386-91.

Lateral Knee Biomechanics



- PLC:
 - Resists hyperextension, varus, tibial ER
 - More pronounced near **extension**
 - Resists PTT near full **extension**
- FCL:
 - Resists varus **throughout range**
 - Resists tibial ER near full **extension**

LaPrade RF et al AJSM 2005 Sep;33(9):1386-91.

ROM Precautions:

**Knee flexion ROM limit
90°x 2 weeks post-op
(Prone PROM for PCLs)**

***Some structures will have a
hyperextension (HE) precaution
(PCL, PLC, FCL, POL)**

*0-0-90° to honor ↑ ligament/graft length/tension
with HE or deeper flexion angles*

2 weeks = early collagen proliferation has occurred

Biomechanics: OKC Quadriceps

Quadriceps Pull



Biomechanics_Mobile Tibia

Into terminal
extension ($50 \rightarrow 0^\circ$)

- Quadriceps anterior pull at tibia
- Anterior tibial translation
- More pronounced in last 30°

Isometric Point @
mid-range ($\sim 60^\circ$)

- Negligible tibial translation
either direction

From Deeper
Flexion ($>60^\circ$)

- Posterior line of pull through patellar
tendon
- Slight posterior tibial translation

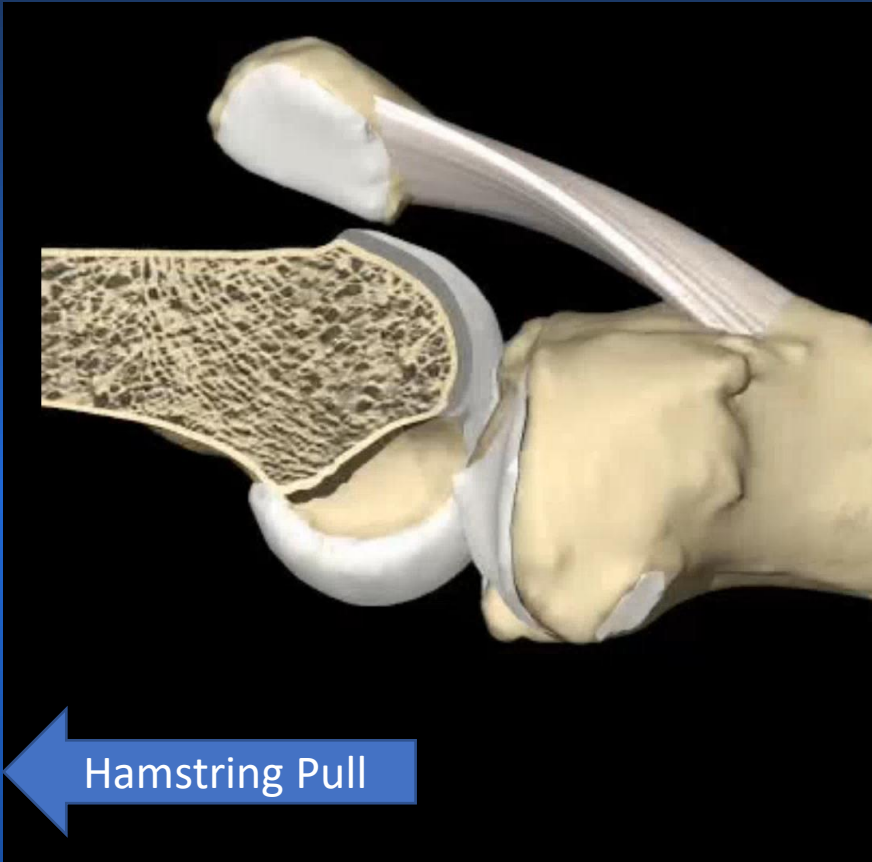
Biomechanics: OK

Precaution:
Modified arc of motion with
quadiceps strengthening
(varies per structures involved)

**Positional restrictions evolve gradually
as healing progresses*

Biomechanics_Mobile Tibia

Biomechanics: OKC Hamstrings



From terminal
extension ($0 \rightarrow 30^\circ$)

- Minimal mechanical advantage to induce posterior tibial translation

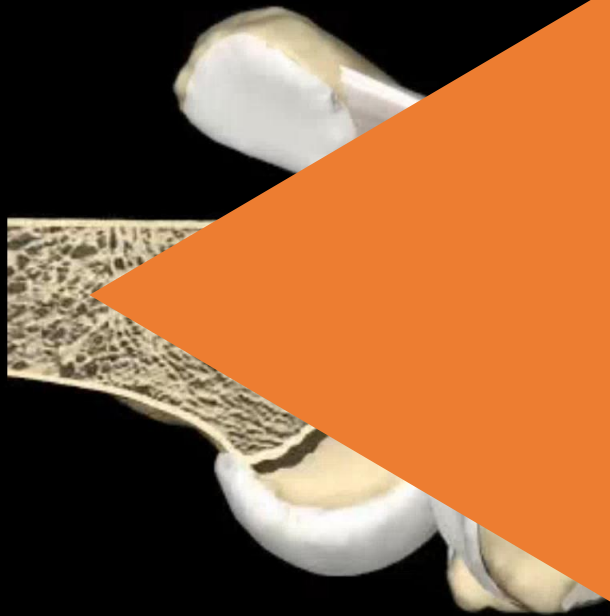
Into Progressive
Flexion ($>30^\circ$)

- Increasing mechanical advantage to create progressively more dramatic posterior tibial translation

Biomechanics: OK

Precaution:
**NO resisted hamstring curling
into knee flexion x 4 months**

*>30 degrees = more joint shear, PTT
4 months = more mature graft*



Hamstring Pull

Biomechanics: Weight Bearing (CKC) Exercise

ATT = anterior tibial translation
PTT = posterior tibial translation

Early
Flexion
<45/50°

Maximized

- Quad mechanical advantage
- ATT

Minimized

- HS mechanical advantage
- PTT



Deeper
Flexion
>60°

Maximized

- HS mechanical advantage
- PTT

Minimized

- Quad mechanical advantage
- ATT

 = direction+magnitude of muscle pull
 = Tibial slope
*General estimates

Escamilla JOSPT 2012; Shelbourne JOR 2011; Escamilla
Clin Biomech 2009; Toutoungi Clin Biomech 2000

Biomechanics: Weight Bearing (CKC) Exercise

ATT = anterior tibial translation

PTT = posterior tibial translation

Precaution:

No squatting $>70^\circ$ x 4 months post-op

*>70 degrees = more joint shear, PTT
4 months = more mature graft*

Minimized

- HS mechanical advantage

- Quad mechanical advantage
- ATT

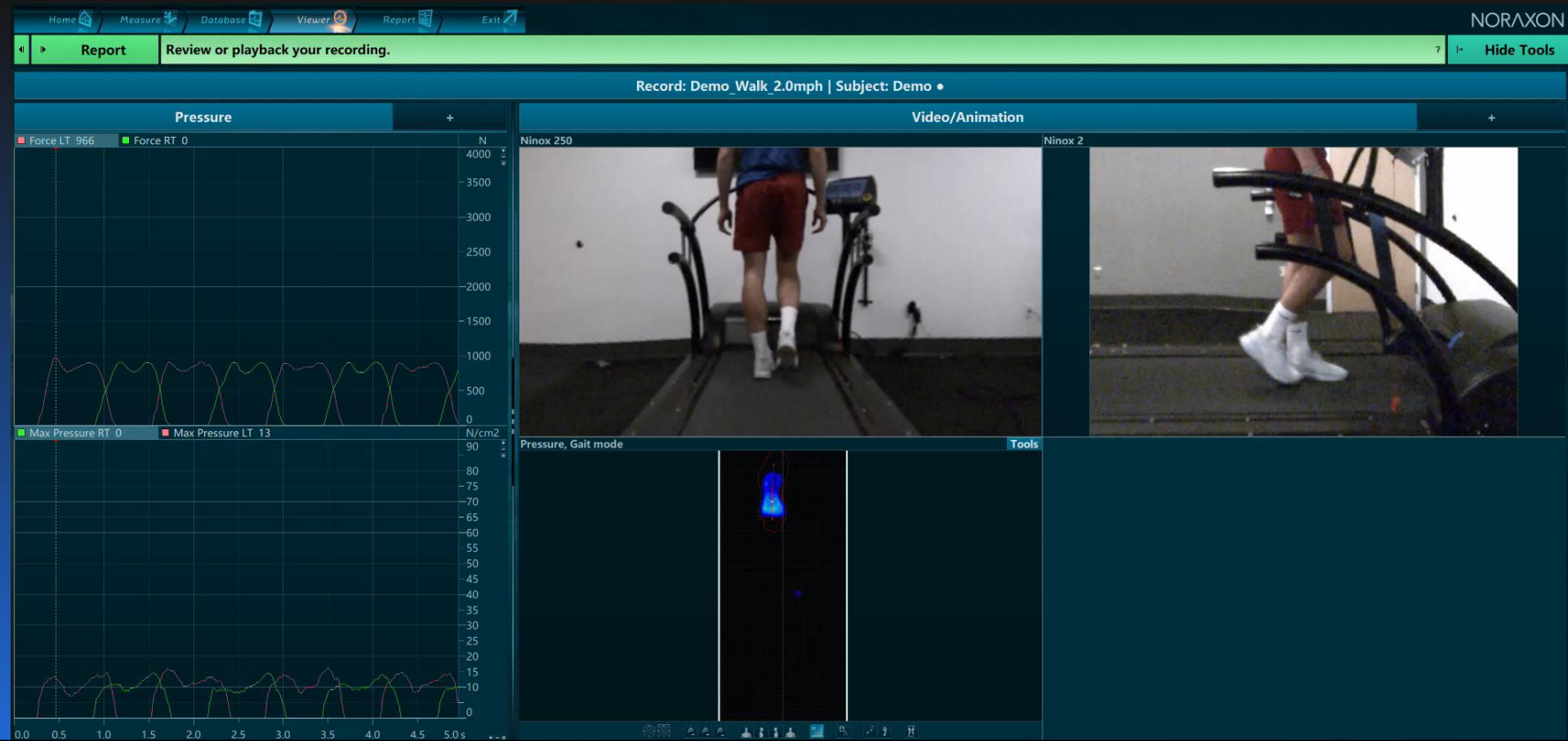
 = direction+magnitude of muscle pull

 = Tibial slope

*General estimates

Escamilla 2012; Shelbourne JOR 2011; Escamilla
Clin Biomech 2009; Toutoungi Clin Biomech 2000

Biomechanics: Gait



- Best quality, most abundant literature related to ACL
 - Studies re: PCL, other structures lacking, outcomes/observations more variable
- Loading response:
 - Sagittal Plane: Quad activation + excursion into shallow flexion + tibial slope = ATT → ACL strain
 - ACL injury → Increased demand placed on MCL to control ATT
 - Transverse Plane: MLKI disrupts static structures that normally control rotational movement

*Wu AJSM 2010; Andriacchi J. Biomech 2005; Hosseini Nasab PloS one 2016;
Shelbourne JOR 2011; Shelbourne Med Sci Sport Exer 2005; Paterno NAJSPT 2008*

Biomechanics: Gait



- Mid-stance:
 - Adduction moment through knee
 - Knee stabilized by lateral, posterolateral structures
 - PLC, biceps femoris, ITB
- Varus thrust gait as a result of injury to these structure
 - ↑ tensile stress at lateral knee structures
 - ↑ compressive forces through medial compartment

Biomechanics: Gait

Precaution:

Post-operative weight bearing restrictions (NWB, PWB, ??)

Currently under investigation within our practice

Very little high-quality literature on non-ACL ligament loading with gait

ment through knee

of

lateral knee

pressive forces through medial compartment

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Confounders

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- Modifiable & non-modifiable

Confounders: Healing

Non-Modifiable

- Baseline joint health
 - Prior (chronic) injury, alignment, OA
- Implants/foreign materials
- Infection
- Age
 - Older = slower, impaired healing
- Sex hormones
- Systemic disease
- Medication

Modifiable

- Nutrition
 - TCO bone health team??
- Psychological stress
 - TCO sports psych team??
- Smoking
 - Delays tissue healing
 - Increases complications

****Patient education****

****Collaborative, team approach****

Confounders: Orthopaedic & Beyond

Neurovascular injury

- Vessel: Emergency vascular bypass, compartment release
 - Wound healing (emergency surgery same day/week as knee surgery)
- Nerve: Foot drop → orthotics need (AFO) → altered gait pattern
 - Additional delayed surgery (after knee recovers)

Additional Trauma

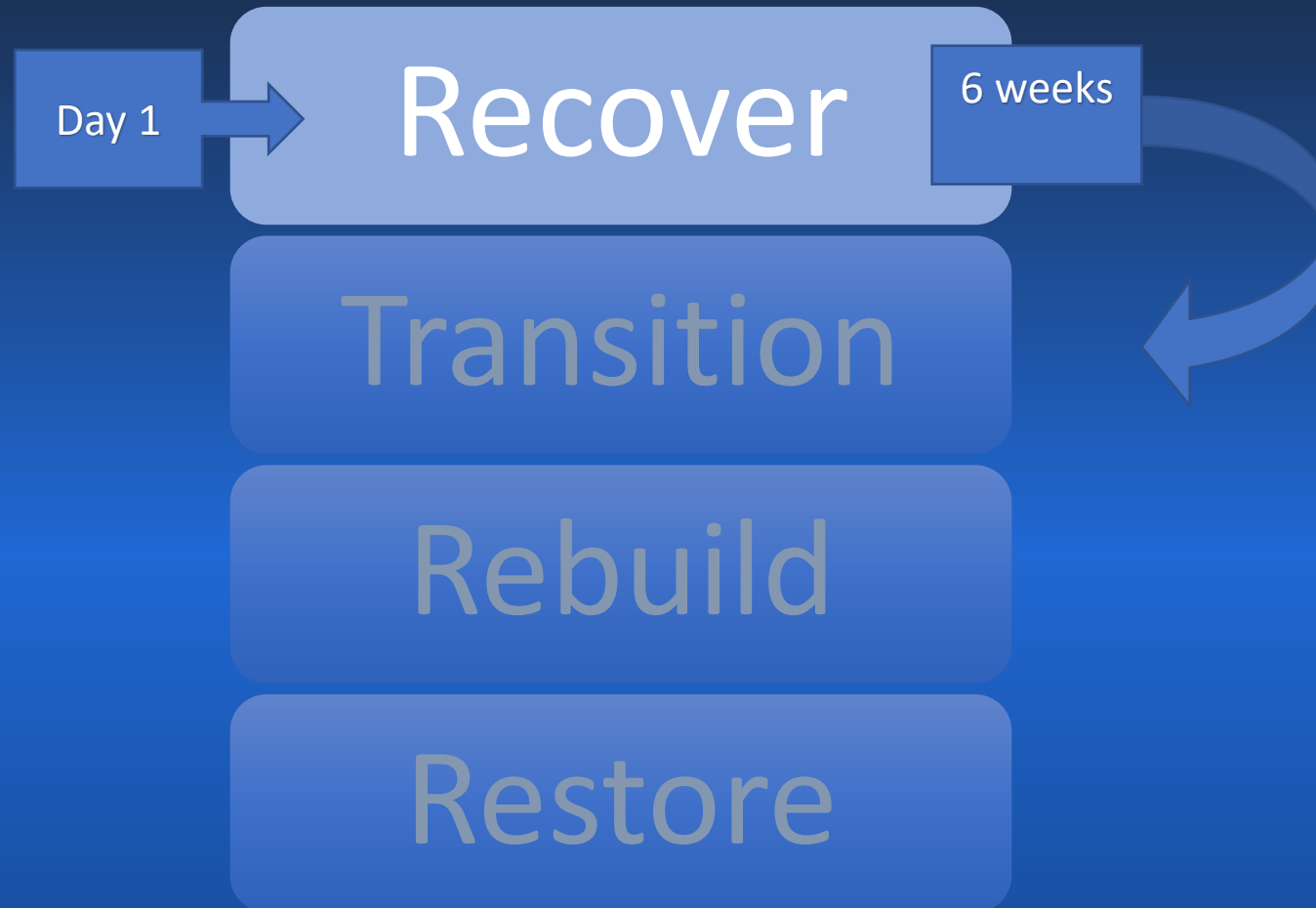
- Fracture, joint dislocation above/below knee
- Internal injuries, brain injury/concussion, DVT, infection
- Psychological response to traumatic injury (with or w/o brain injury)

Social, Economic Factors

- Health insurance
- Financial resources (time off work)
- Transportation to/from clinic for high # of visits, long duration of care
- Advocacy, In-home support (especially in early recovery)

EARLY POST-OPERATIVE REHABILITATION: Key Priorities

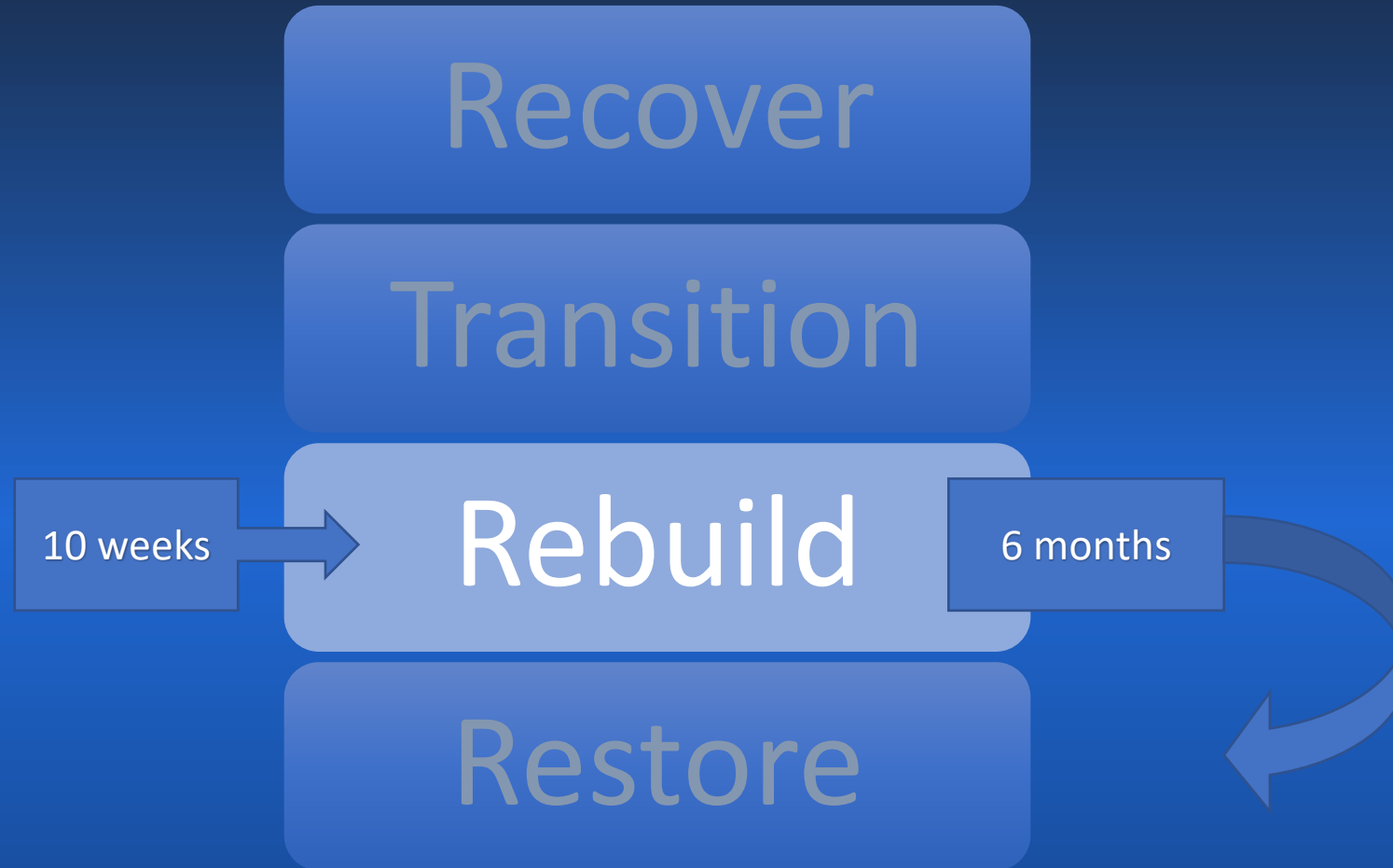
POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



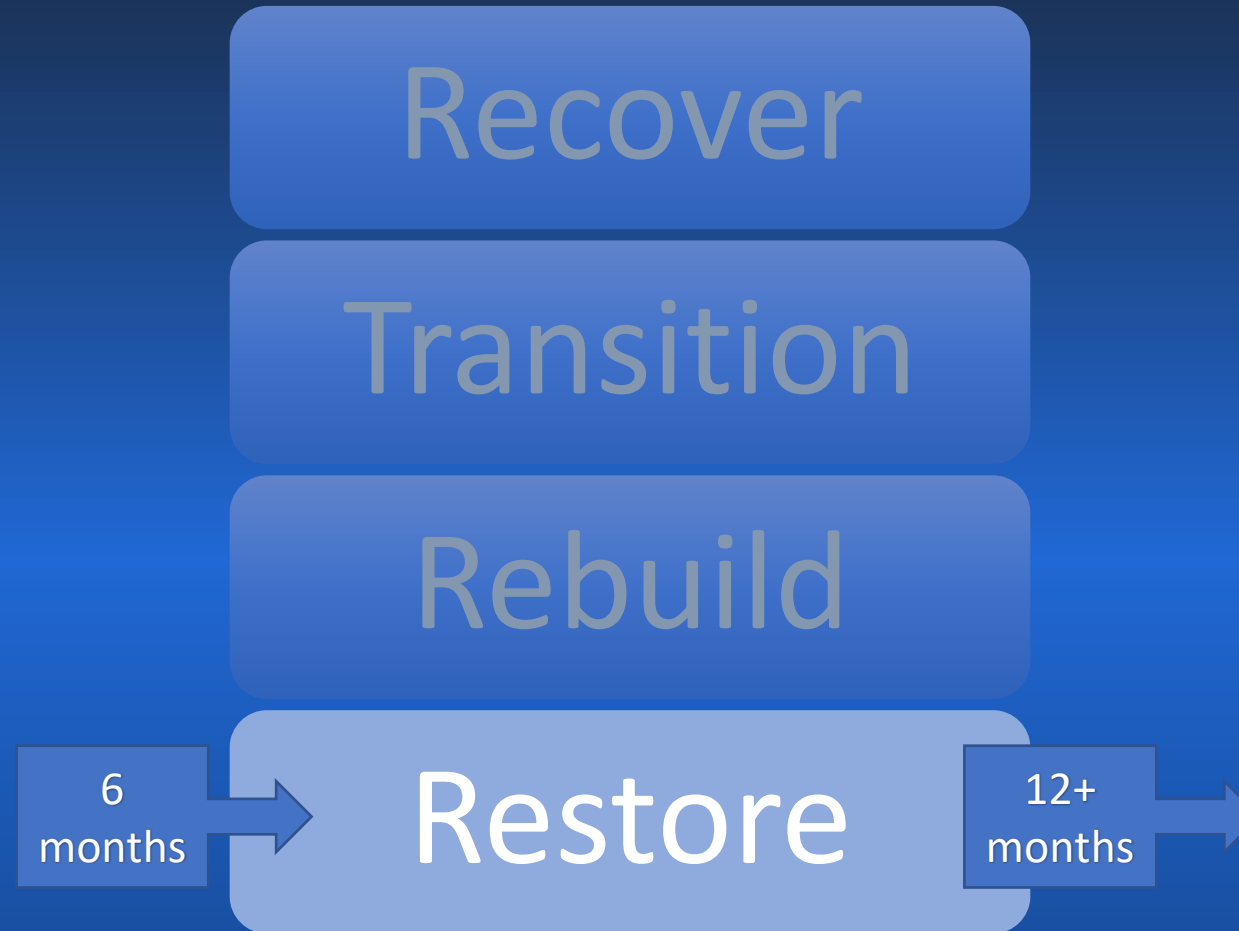
POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



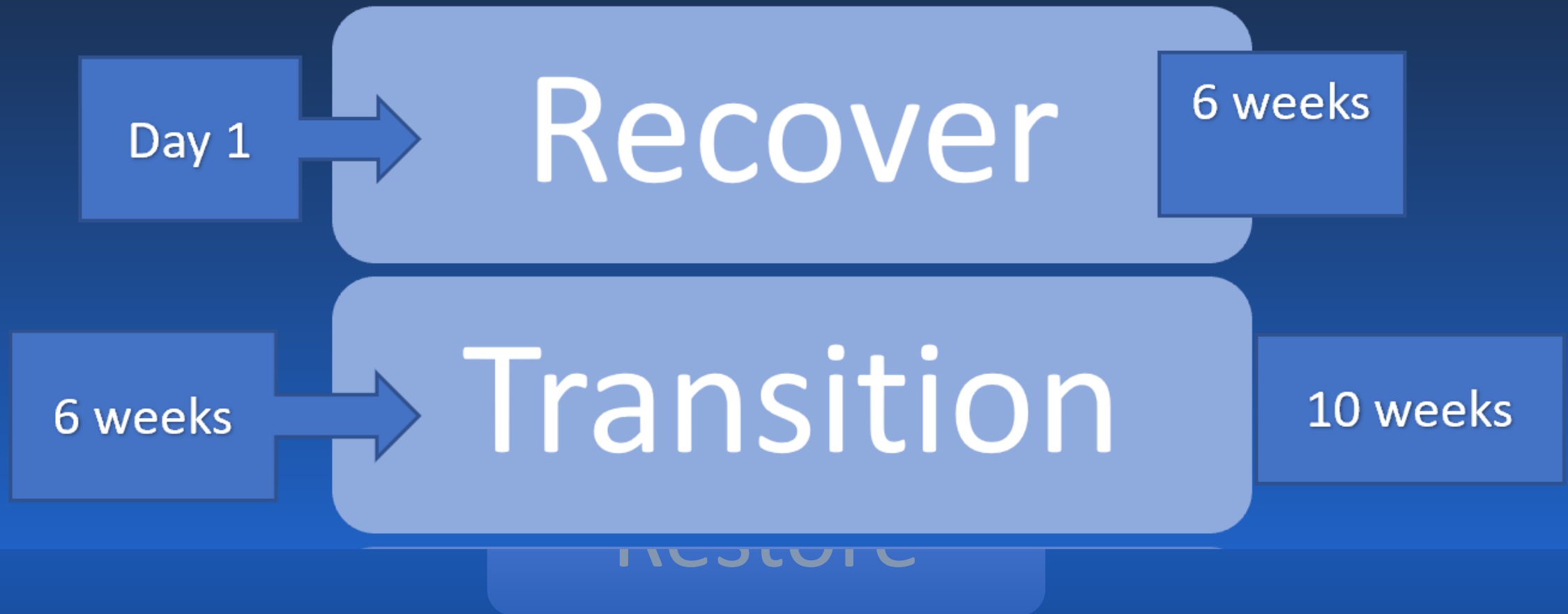
POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



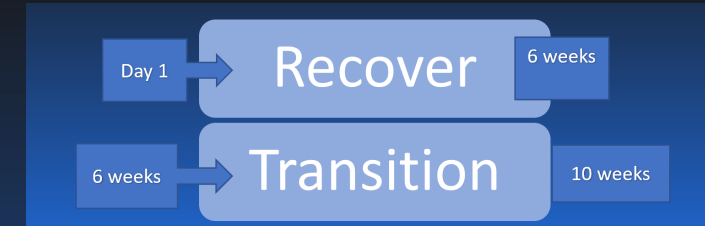
POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



Early Post-Surgical Rehab Pyramid



Effectively re-introduce loading → Functional Strengthening

Effectively re-activate target muscles safely → Isolated Strengthening

Nourish Joint → Restore ROM

Manage Complications, Protect Joint, Manage Symptoms

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Early Post-Surgical Rehab Pyramid



Manage Complications, Protect Joint, Manage Symptoms

Education: Day 1 Post-Op Clinic

Patient Education Folder:

- ✓ PT referral
- ✓ Protocol
- ✓ TRAC testing scheduling document (4, 7, 10 mo.)
- ✓ Post-op priorities education document
- ✓ Contact information
- ✓ Medical education document (wound care, medication, etc.)
- ✓ Intra-operative photos



Observing for Post-Operative Complications

DVT

Nerve Injury

Vascular Injury/Compartment Syndrome

Infection

Fracture

Complications: DVT



DVT

- Painful, progressive lower leg swelling (ankle, foot, toes swollen)
- Painful to palpation of the calf
 - Can be general tenderness or tenderness to the deep veins
 - Usually along saphenous vein (central calf)
- Pain with passive ankle DF
- DVT risk factors best defined using Wells' Criteria for DVT

Well's Criteria

Active cancer Treatment or palliation within 6 months	No 0	Yes +1
Bedridden recently >3 days or major surgery within 12 weeks	No 0	Yes +1
Calf swelling >3 cm compared to the other leg Measured 10 cm below tibial tuberosity	No 0	Yes +1
Collateral (nonvaricose) superficial veins present	No 0	Yes +1
Entire leg swollen	No 0	Yes +1
Localized tenderness along the deep venous system	No 0	Yes +1
Pitting edema, confined to symptomatic leg	No 0	Yes +1
Paralysis, paresis, or recent plaster immobilization of the lower extremity	No 0	Yes +1
Previously documented DVT	No 0	Yes +1
Alternative diagnosis to DVT as likely or more likely	No 0	Yes -2

- A score of 1-2 is considered moderate risk with a pretest probability of 17%.
- A score of 3 or higher suggests DVT is likely. Pretest probability 17-53%.

Complications: Nerve Injury

Nerve injury

- Sensory-motor deficits expected for the first 1-2 days post-op if patient received a nerve block during surgery
- Progressive deterioration (rather than gradual recovery) of:
 - Specifically pathway of superficial and deep peroneal nerves
 - Superficial peroneal nerve
 - Motor (myotomes)
 - lateral compartment of leg
 - peroneus longus
 - peroneus brevis
 - Sensory (dermatomes)
 - majority of skin on the dorsum of foot, excluding webspace between hallux and second digit
 - anterolateral distal 1/3 of leg
 - No associated reflex
 - Deep peroneal nerve
 - Motor (myotomes)
 - tibialis anterior
 - extensor digitorum longus/brevis
 - peroneus tertius
 - extensor hallucis longus/brevis
 - Sensory (dermatomes)
 - articular branch to the ankle joint
 - 1st dorsal webspace
 - No associated reflex

Complications: Vascular Injury

Vascular injury → Compartment syndrome

- Disproportionately high pain that does not respond to analgesics
- Severe pain with stretch of the involved compartment
- Paresthesia or numbness
- Loss/reduction of lower extremity pulse (dorsalis pedis/posterior tibial pulses)
 - Reduced capillary refill at toes/foot
 - Dusky appearance of toes/foot
 - Foot is cold
- Progressive lower leg swelling (into foot, toes as well)
- Firmness/tightness at lower leg compartments
- Compartment syndrome risk factors include: lower leg trauma, vascular compromise, excessively tight/compressive dressing
- 5 Ps (pain, palor, pulselessness, paresthesia, paralysis)

Complications: Infection, Fracture

Infection

- Foul smelling, purulent/pus-like discharge
 - Blood and serosanguinous fluid are normal for the first few days after surgery.
- Progressive redness, warmth (expanding/intensifying rather than retracting/diminishing)
- Tenderness around affected area
- Fever >101.5 degrees

Fracture

- Pain increased from baseline with weight bearing or muscle activation
- Focal pain and swelling over the involved region of bone
- Associated trauma/MOI after surgery

Management for Dr. LaPrade's Patients

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN RED FLAGS OBSERVED

1. Contact the medical team for consult:

- a. PT team member to contact MD team:
 - i. teamlaprade@tcomn.com attention Chris Armstrong, PA
- b. Patients may call 952-456-7412 if needed

2. Pursue urgent medical visit referral and/or imaging consult as recommended

- a. TCO urgent care
 - i. Locations: https://tcomn.com/ortho-urgent-care/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlo--Wsti78QIVUGpvBB0i2gdHEAAYASAAEgLDLfD_BwE
- b. Duplex ultrasound for DVT screening
 - i. CDI (US available in Eagan on select days)
 - 1. Eagan office should be able to coordinate a visit at another location if US not available on-site
 - ii. Vascular & Interventional Experts (VIE)
 - 1. Located on-site at TCO locations
 - a. Minnesota Drive, Edina (available Mon-Fri)
 - b. Plymouth (available Fri)
 - c. Woodbury (available Tues)

3. Send to ED

- a. Edina: Fairview/M Health Southdale
- b. Eagan: Fairview/M Health Ridges (Burnsville)
- c. Link to all Fairview/M Health ED Locations:
<https://www.fairview.org/specialties/emergency-services-and-critical-care#locations1>

Joint Protection: WB Restriction

****RESEARCH PROTOCOLS IN PROGRESS****

Ligament(s) Involved	Control Precaution	Experimental Precaution
Multi-Ligament	NWB	PWB (40% of BW)
PCL	NWB	PWB (40% of BW)
PLC	NWB	PWB (40% of BW)
FCL	PWB (40% of BW)	WBAT
6-week weight bearing restriction period for all		

****Exclusion: unstable meniscus repair, revision surgery, fracture***



Joint Protection: Bracing

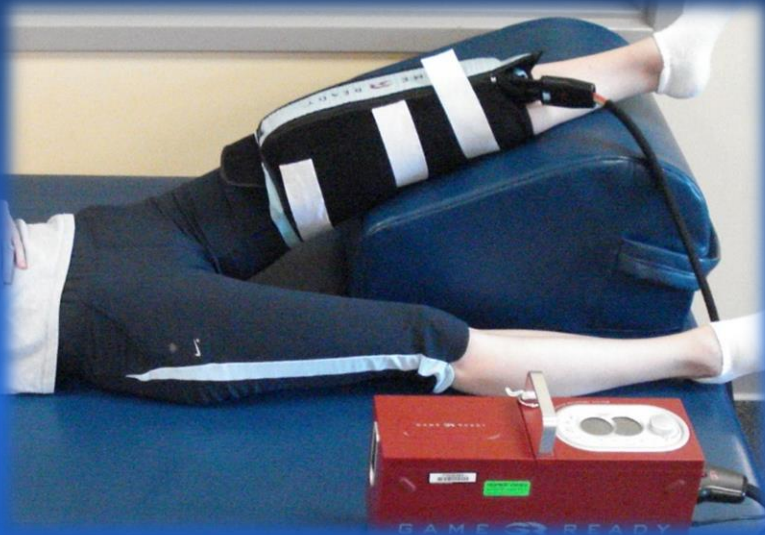
- MLKR patients remain in a brace longer:
 - ADLs: until 6 month stress x-rays show stable knee
 - Higher level activities: throughout the 1st year
- PCLR:
 - Immobilizer until swelling reduces enough to transition into dynamic PCL brace (usually 2-3 weeks)
- Non-PCLR:
 - Immobilizer until WB (6 weeks) - transition to hinged brace
- AFO indicated for common peroneal n. injury



Symptom Management: Swelling



Swelling Management: All of the time



Vasopneumatic Cryotherapy:

- 30 min on/off in first week
- Multiple times daily in first 2-3 weeks



Compression Stockings:

- NWB: 6 weeks at surgical limb, 2 weeks at non-surgical
- WBAT: 2 weeks at surgical limb only



Tubigrip Stockings

Swelling Management: Some of the time



Kinesiology Tape for Lymphatic Flow



Foam Croutons “Burritos”:

Construct packet(s) of small foam croutons to apply under tubigrip over an area of stagnant fluid accumulation (enclose within cover-roll tape or small size tubigrip (ends taped/stitched shut) to make a little “burrito” of croutons)

*creates channels in the fluid to help drain it

Early Post-Surgical Rehab Pyramid

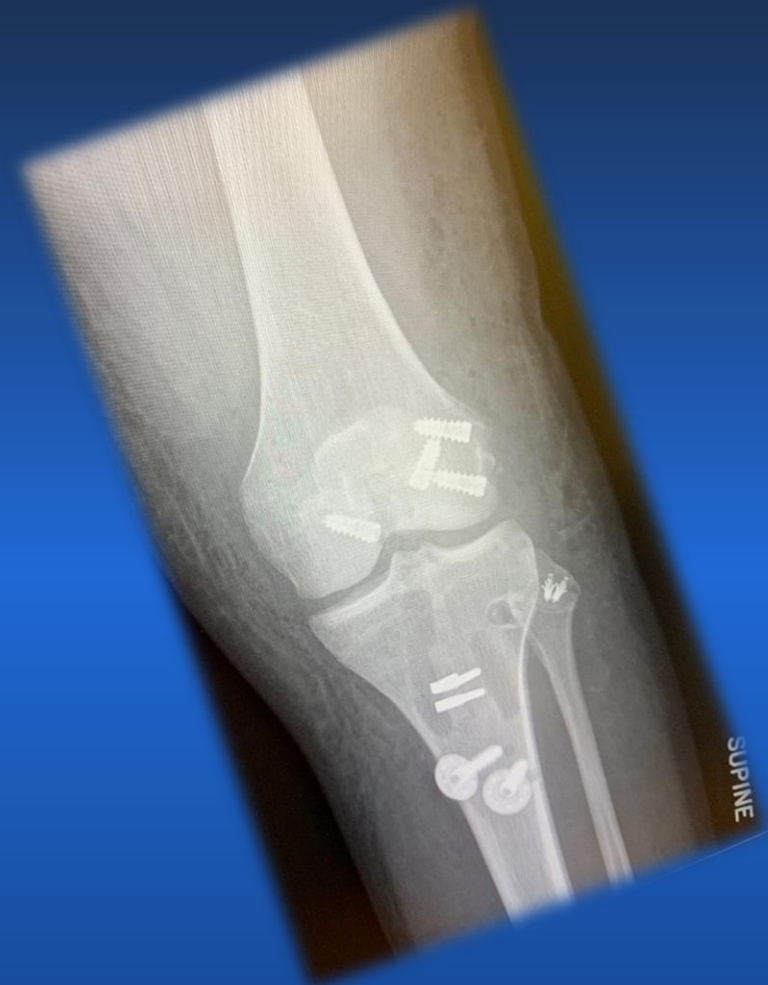
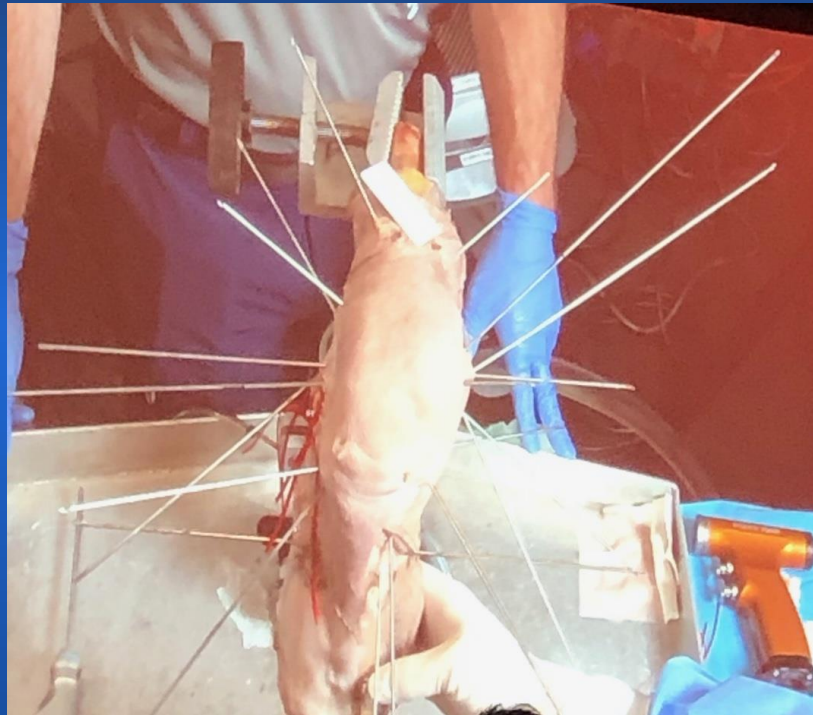
Effectively re-introduce loading → Functional Strengthening

Effectively re-activate target muscles safely → Isolated Strengthening

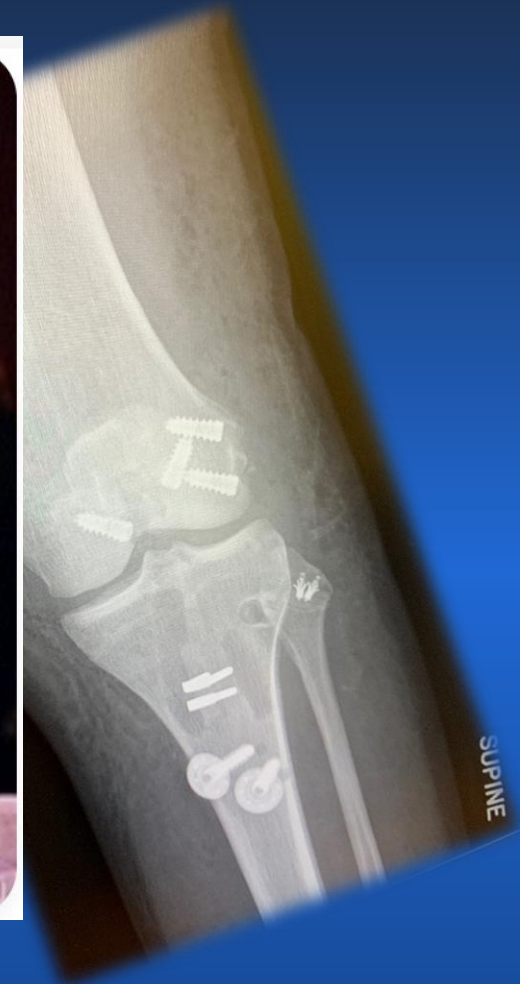
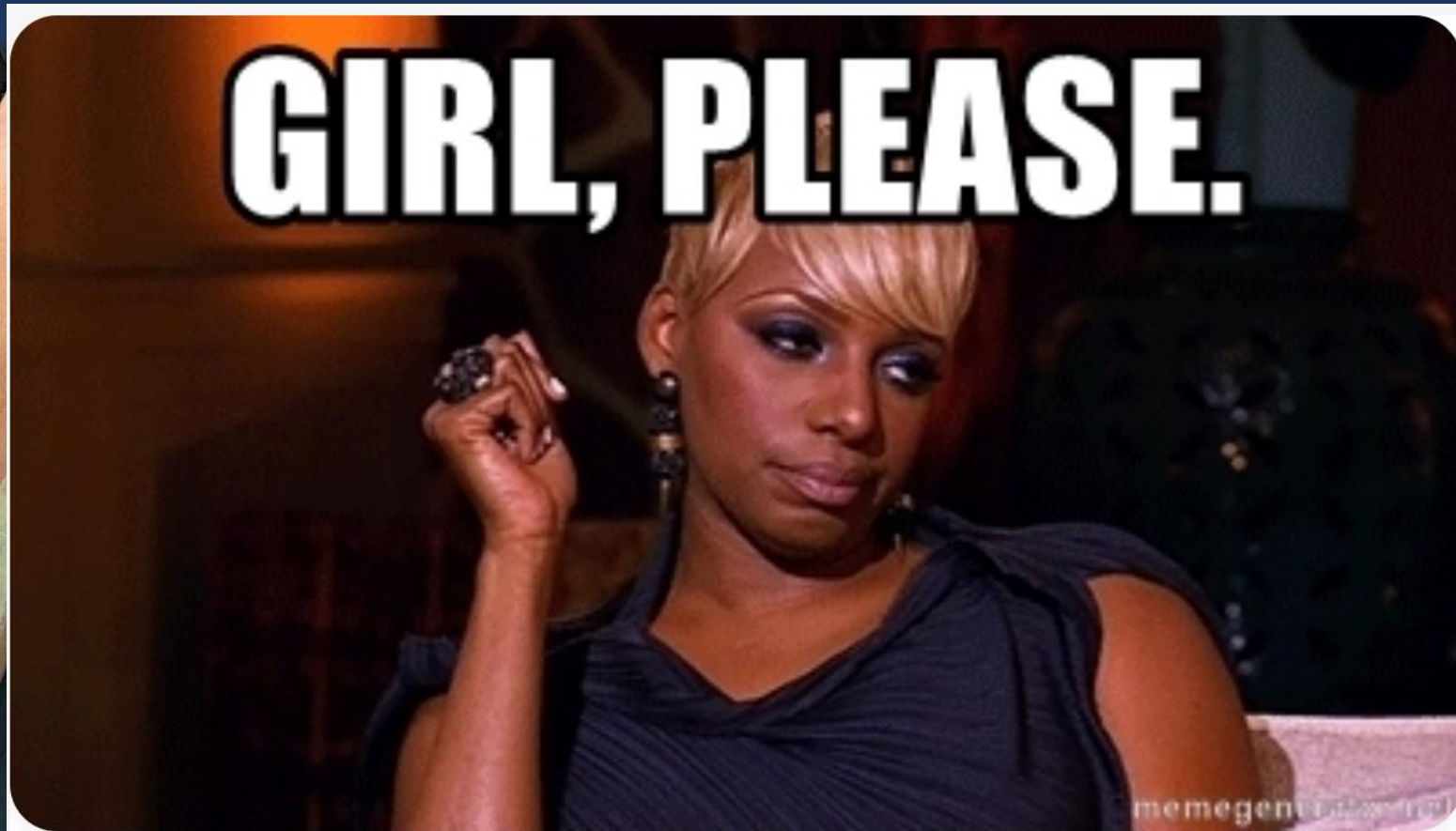
Nourish Joint → Restore ROM

Manage Complications, Protect Joint, Manage Symptoms

Nourish the Joint → ROM

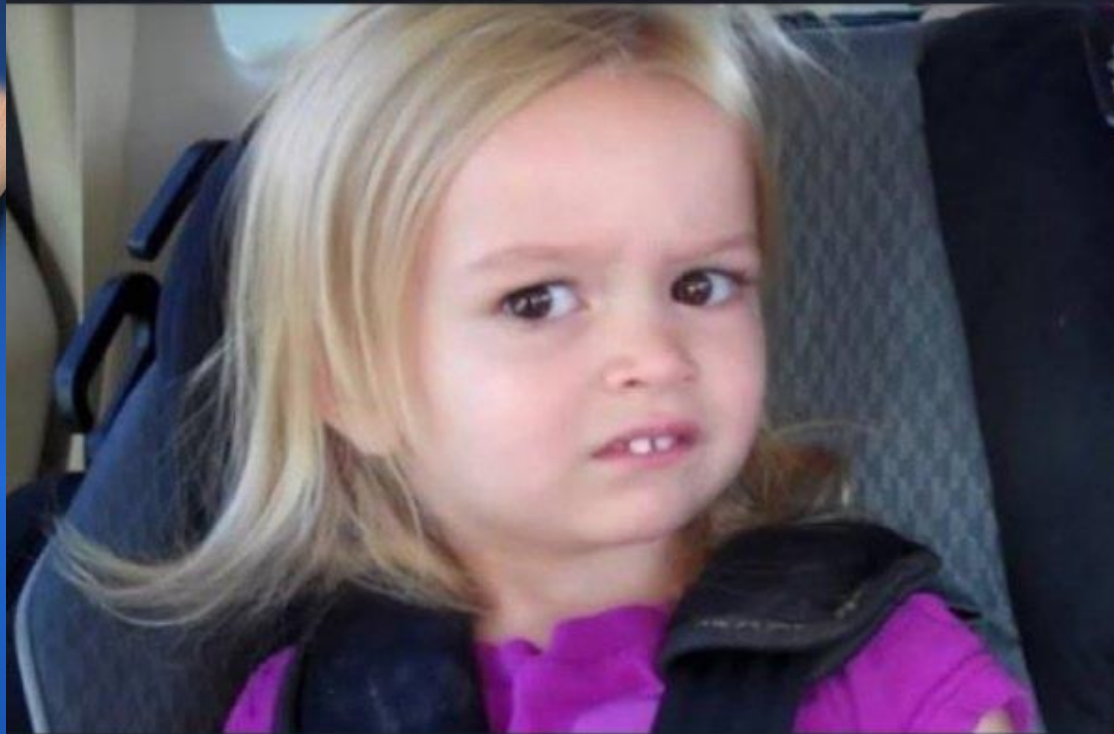


Nourish the Joint → ROM



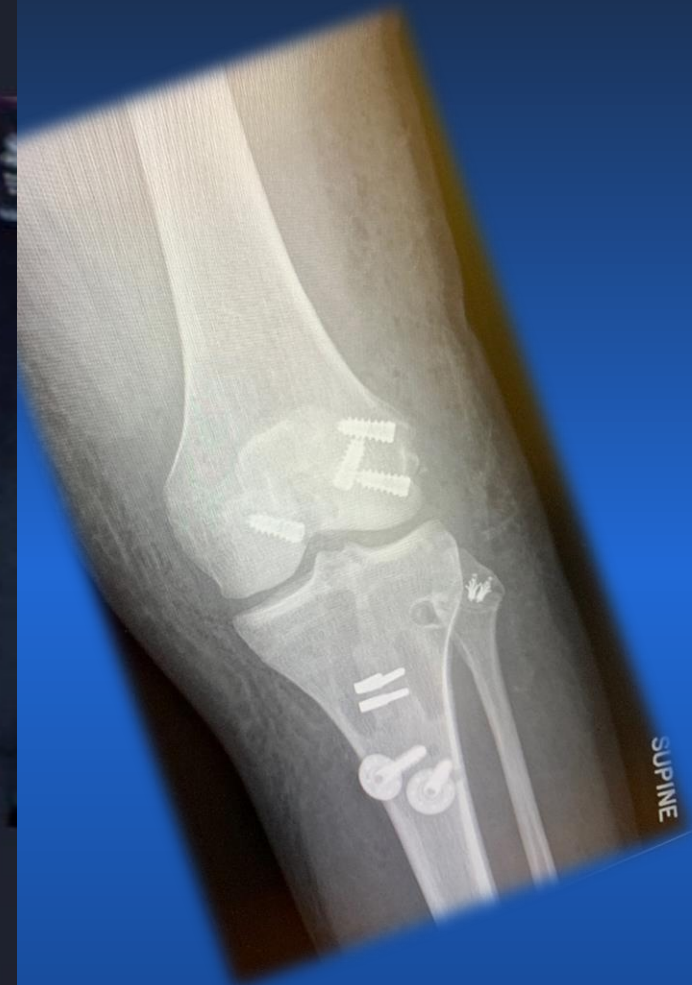
Nourish the

ARE YOU



CRAZY?!

makeameme.org



Nourish the Joint → ROM



Single-Stage Multiple-Ligament Knee Reconstructions for Sports-Related Injuries

Outcomes in 194 Patients

Robert F. LaPrade,^{*†} MD, PhD, Jorge Chahla,[‡] MD, PhD,
Nicholas N. DePhillipo,^{†§} MS, ATC, OTC, Tyler Cram,[†] ATC, Mitchell I. Kennedy,^{||} BS,
Mark Cinque,^{||} MD, Grant J. Dornan,^{||} MSc, Luke T. O'Brien,[¶] PT, MPhty (Sports),
Lars Engebretsen,^{§#**} Prof., MD, PhD, and Gilbert Moatshe,^{§**} MD, PhD
Investigation performed at The Steadman Clinic, Vail, Colorado, USA



- Immediate ROM permitted (0-90 deg limit x 2 wks, then progress as tolerated)
- Mean post-operative Knee ROM (2 yr f/u): **0-0-134 deg**
- Post-operative multi-direction knee laxity within acceptable range (stress radiography)

Single-Stage Multiple-Ligament Knee Reconstructions for Severe Injuries

Outcomes in 194 Patients

Robert F. LaPrade
Nicholas M. ...
Mark C. ...
Lars Enger
Investigation of

Early ROM
following MLKI Knee
Reconstruction is
SAFE



- Immediate ROM permitted (as tolerated)
- Mean post-operative Knee ROM (2 yr follow-up) = 118°
- Post-operative multi-direction knee laxity within acceptable range (stress radiography)

ROM: Precautions & Unique Considerations

No Hyperextension (HE)

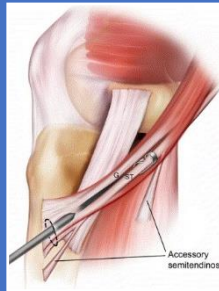
- Avoid graft tension on structures that natively limit knee HE
- PCL & PLC: Avoid HE x 8 weeks
- FCL & POL: Avoid HE x 2 weeks then gradual return to symmetry

Prone &/or PROM Knee Flexion ROM

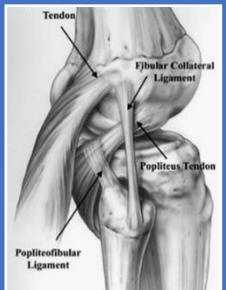
- PCL: PRONE x 2 weeks (avoid positional sag into PTT), PASSIVE x 6 weeks (avoid hamstring pulling into PTT)
- FCL, PLC: PASSIVE → AAROM gradually over 6 weeks (fibular head disruption, secondary contributors to PTT stability)

Patellofemoral Compartment Adhesion Management

- Inflammation x 48-72 hrs → proliferation (collagen spray) x 2 wks
- Extensor mechanism = pulley system (patella/tendons = rope)
- Scar under the tendons, between the tissue layers = supergluing the rope to the pulley = ineffective pulley!



Graft Considerations



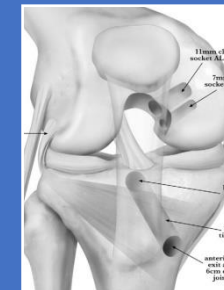
FCL/PLC

Hypertrophic Changes



MCL

Ossification



PCL

Double Bundle Allograft

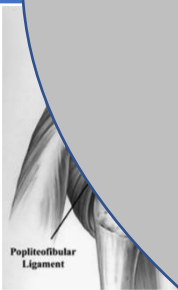
Autograft Harvest:

- Additional soft tissue trauma about the joint
 - Tendon healing required from stripping
- Additional regions of collagen proliferation
 - Increased likelihood of scarring

EXCESS SCAR = STIFF JOINT

MANAGE THESE REGIONS TO MINIMIZE EXCESS SCAR

(Manage inflammation, supported ROM, manual interventions, gentle & effective early muscle activation)



Hypertrop.

Handle Allograft

ROM Support Strategies

- **Patellar/Peripatellar Mobilizations**

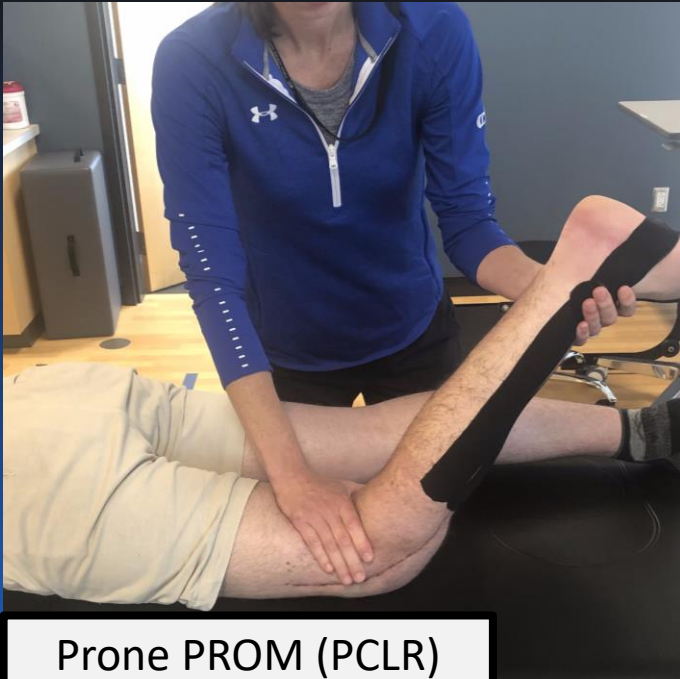
- Patella
- Quad & Patellar Tendons
- Suprapatellar pouch
- Infrapatellar fat pad

- **Strong, repetitive quad activation**

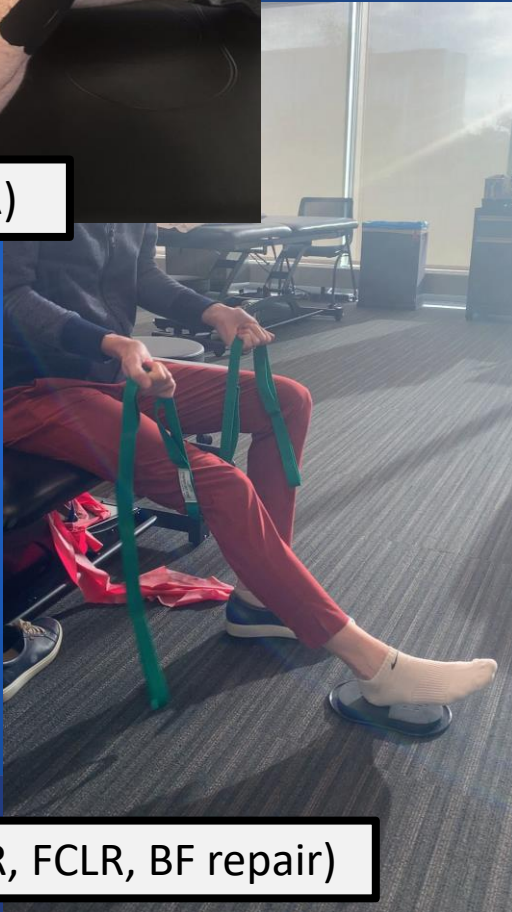
- Couple with patellar mobilizations
 - Proximal with contraction
 - Distal with relaxation



ROM: Flexion Precautions



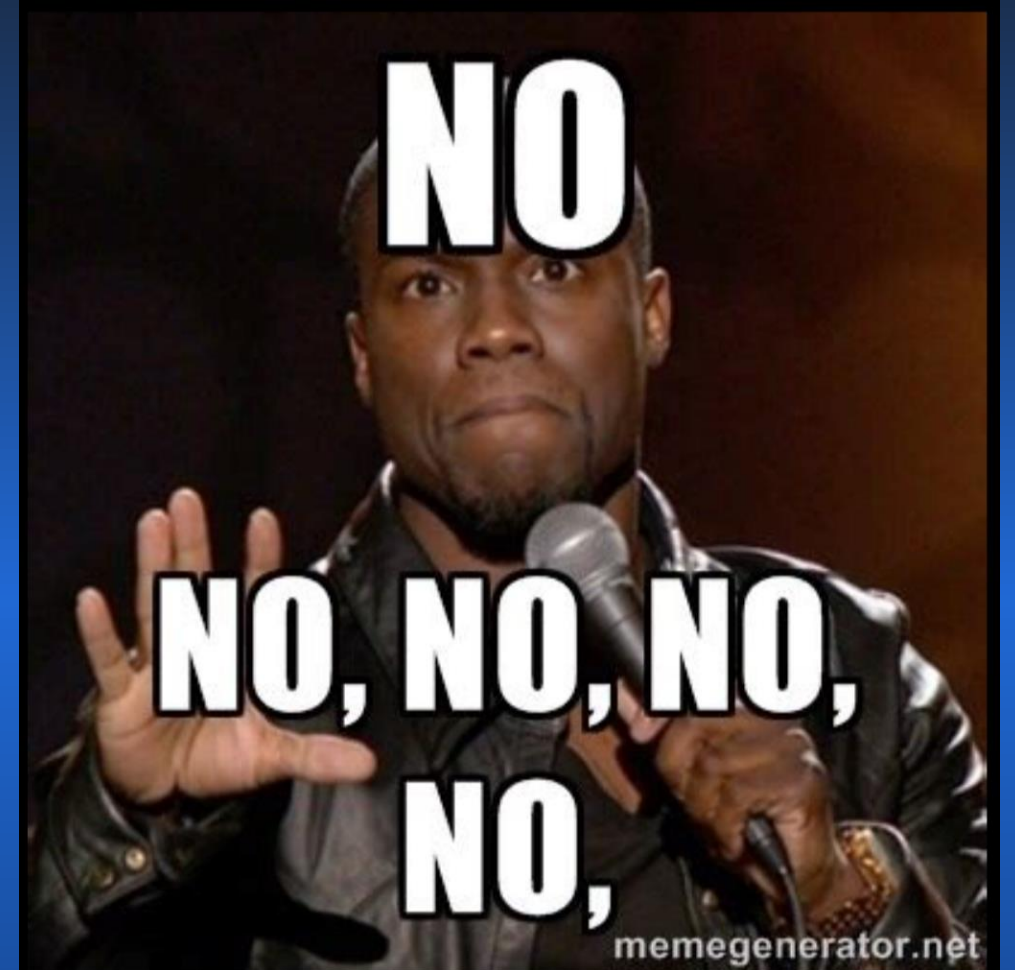
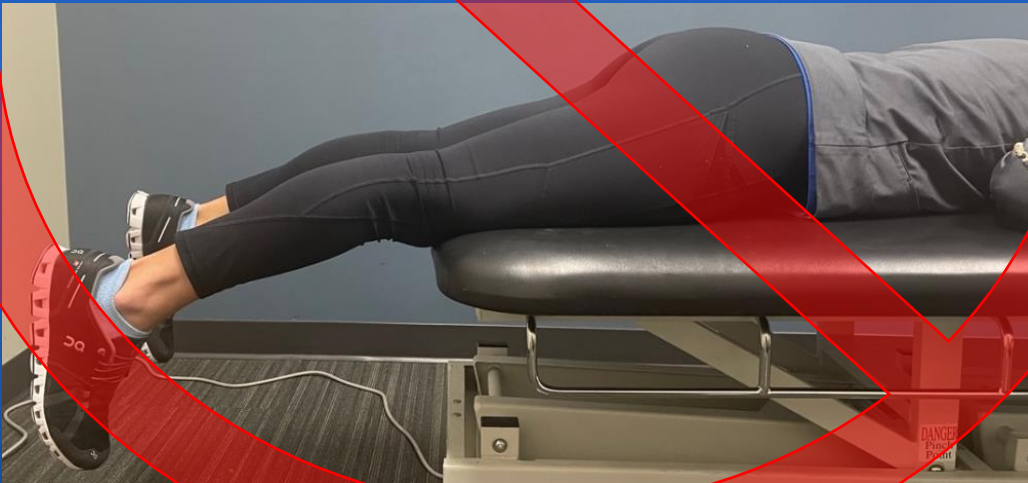
Prone PROM (PCLR)



Seated PROM (PLCR, FCLR, BF repair)

- Prone PROM 0-90°x 2 weeks (PCL)
 - Avoid posterior tibial sag/translation (PTT) d/t positioning
 - PROM to minimize HS pulling induced posterior shear
- PASSIVE ROM (PROM) x 6 weeks
 - PCL, PLC, biceps femoris repair
 - Minimize dynamic PTT via hamstring pulling
- No hyperextension (PCL, PLC) x 8 weeks

ROM: Hyperextension Precaution



ROM: Hyperextension Precaution



Early Post-Surgical Rehab Pyramid



Effectively re-activate target muscles safely → Isolated Strengthening

Muscle Re-action: Nerve Injury

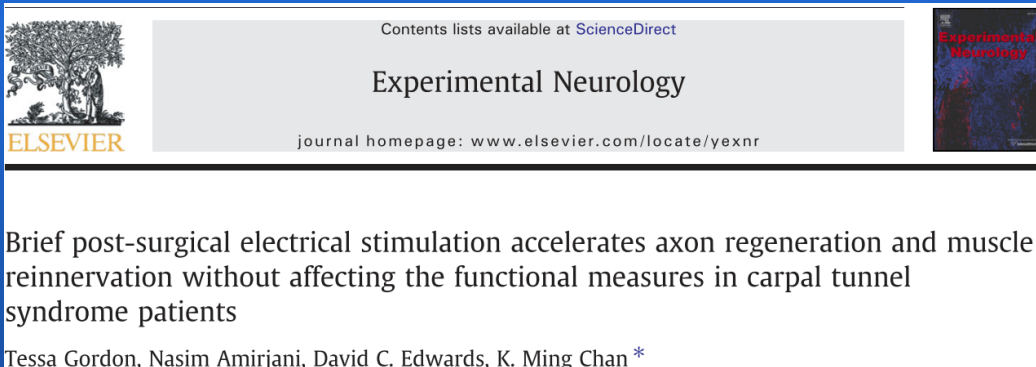
FCL/PLC Procedures Common Peroneal Nerve (CPN)


- **Transient CPN Neuropraxia**
 - Not unusual when nerve block used
 - Should resolve within 2-3 days
 - **If NOT – contact medical team**
- **Complete CPN Injury/Palsy**
 - Critical to retain ankle DF ROM
 - Improves future outcomes with tibialis posterior tendon transfer



Muscle Re-activation: Nerve Injury

- Low Frequency Electrical Stimulation (≤ 20 Hz)



**HHS Public Access**
Author manuscript
Eur J Neurosci. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2017 February 01.

Published in final edited form as:
Eur J Neurosci. 2016 February ; 43(3): 336–350. doi:10.1111/ejn.13005.

Strategies to promote peripheral nerve regeneration: electrical stimulation and/or exercise

Tessa Gordon* and **Arthur W. English[≈]**

*Department of Surgery, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario M4G 1X8

[≈]Department of Cell Biology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA 30322

Basic Research Article

Electrical Stimulation to Promote Peripheral Nerve Regeneration

Michael P. Willand, PhD¹, May-Anh Nguyen², Gregory H. Borschel, MD¹, and Tessa Gordon, PhD¹

Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair
2016, Vol. 30(5) 490–496
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DOI: 10.1177/1545968315604399
nnr.sagepub.com


Gordon Exp Neurol 2010, Elzinga Exp Neurol. 2015; Willand 2016; Gordon 2016

Muscle Re-activation: Nerve Injury

Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (Quad)

- Stimulation Frequency: 50-100 Hz
- Dosing: 10-15 minutes (intermittent), 3-7x/wk, until strength recovers
- Target: Directly to muscle

Low Frequency Electrical Stimulation (Nerve Injury)

- Stimulation Frequency: ≤ 20 Hz
- Dosing: 1 hour daily (constant) x 2 weeks
- Target: Along pathway of nerve (proximal to injury location)



Quad Re-activation: Electrical Stimulation (NMES)

- Over-ride quadriceps activation deficit
 - *Hart JATA 2010*
- Recover Strength
 - *Kim JOSPT 2010*
 - *Gatewood Knee Surgery, Sports Traumatology, Arthroscopy 2017*

Quad: Blood Flow Restriction Therapy (BFR)

- Tennent Clin J Sports Med 2017
 - BFR group had increase in:
 - thigh girth
 - extension and flexion strength
- Excellent tool for patients who are NWB x 6 weeks
 - Safe to initiate within the first 2 weeks after surgery
 - *Hughes BJSM 2017, Patterson Front. Physiol .2019, Minniti AJSM 2019*
- Introduction of BFR:
 - Bleeding resolved
 - Initiate at lower intensity then build to therapeutic dosing (80%) as tolerated
 - Modify time under occlusion per tolerance



Quad: Blood Flow Restriction Therapy (BFR)

TABLE 1 | Model of exercise prescription with BFR-RE.

	Guidelines
Frequency	2–3 times a week (>3 weeks) or 1–2 times per day (1–3 weeks)
Load	20–40% 1RM
Restriction time	5–10 min per exercise (reperfusion between exercises)
Type	Small and large muscle groups (arms and legs/uni or bilateral)
Sets	2–4
Cuff	5 (small), 10 or 12 (medium), 17 or 18 cm (large)
Repetitions Pressure	(75 reps) – 30 × 15 × 15 × 15, or sets to failure 40–80% AOP
Rest between sets	30–60 s
Restriction form	Continuous or intermittent
Execution speed	1–2 s (concentric and eccentric)
Execution	Until concentric failure or when planned rep scheme is completed



Patterson Front. Physiol .2019

Quad: Blood Flow Restriction Therapy (BFR)

TABLE 1 | Model of exercise prescription with BFR-RE.

Guidelines	
Frequency	2–3 times a week (>3 weeks) or 1–2 times per day (1–3 weeks)

Editorial > [Arthroscopy](#). 2021 Sep;37(9):2870-2872. doi: 10.1016/j.arthro.2021.04.073.

Editorial Commentary: Blood Flow Restriction Therapy Continues to Prove Effective

Robert F LaPrade¹, Jill K Monson², Jon Schoenecker²

Repetitions Pressure	(75 reps) – 30 × 15 × 15 × 15, or sets to failure 40–80% AOP
Rest between sets	30–60 s
Restriction form	Continuous or intermittent
Execution speed	1–2 s (concentric and eccentric)
Execution	Until concentric failure or when planned rep scheme is completed



Day 1

Recover

6 weeks



Pain/Effusion
Management



Progressive
ROM



Quad
Activation



Prepare for
Gait



POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



Early Post-Surgical Rehab Pyramid

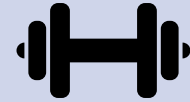


Effectively re-introduce loading → Functional Strengthening

GOALS for Transition



Transition off crutches



Load: Muscle | Tendon



Continue to avoid:

- OKC hamstring
- Squat >70 degrees



Work Capacity

Clean Up Time

Pain/Effusion

Range of Motion

Quad Function

Gait



Gait s/p MLKR

Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc (2017) 25:1489–1499
DOI 10.1007/s00167-016-4104-3



KNEE

Gait adaptations following multiple-ligament knee reconstruction occur with altered knee kinematics during level walking

Corey J. Scholes¹ · Joe T. Lynch¹ · Milad Ebrahimi¹ · Brett A. Fritsch¹ ·
David A. Parker¹

- Initial Contact: significantly greater knee flexion observed at surgical limb
 - Loading response: significantly reduced knee flexion (excursion) at surgical limb
- “More constrained pattern of knee motion”**

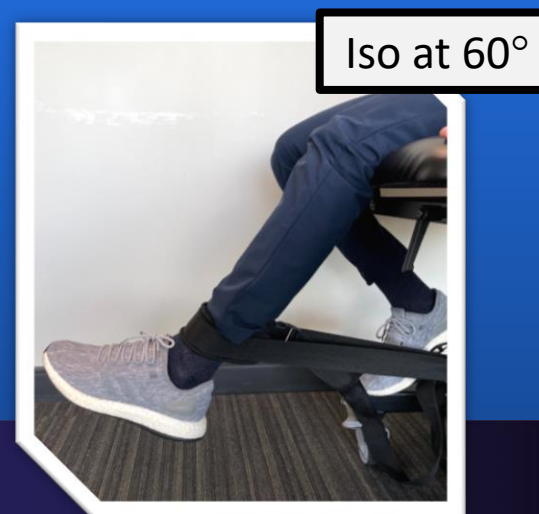
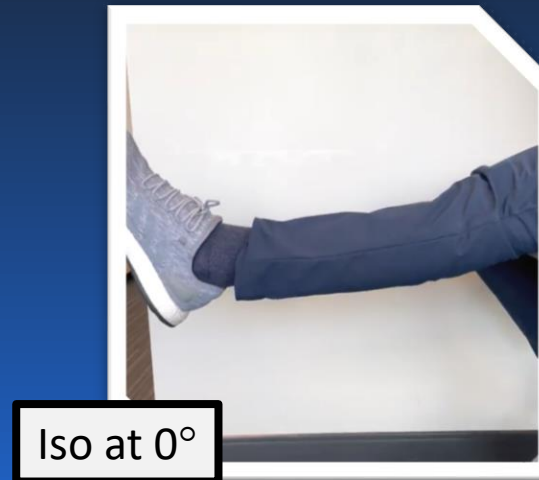
Gait Retraining



Isolated Open Chain Strengthening: Extension



Isotonic through arc 0-60°



Isolated Open Chain Strengthening: Flexion



- Shallow ISOs
- Hip hinge
- Bridge
- AROM slides



8-16 weeks

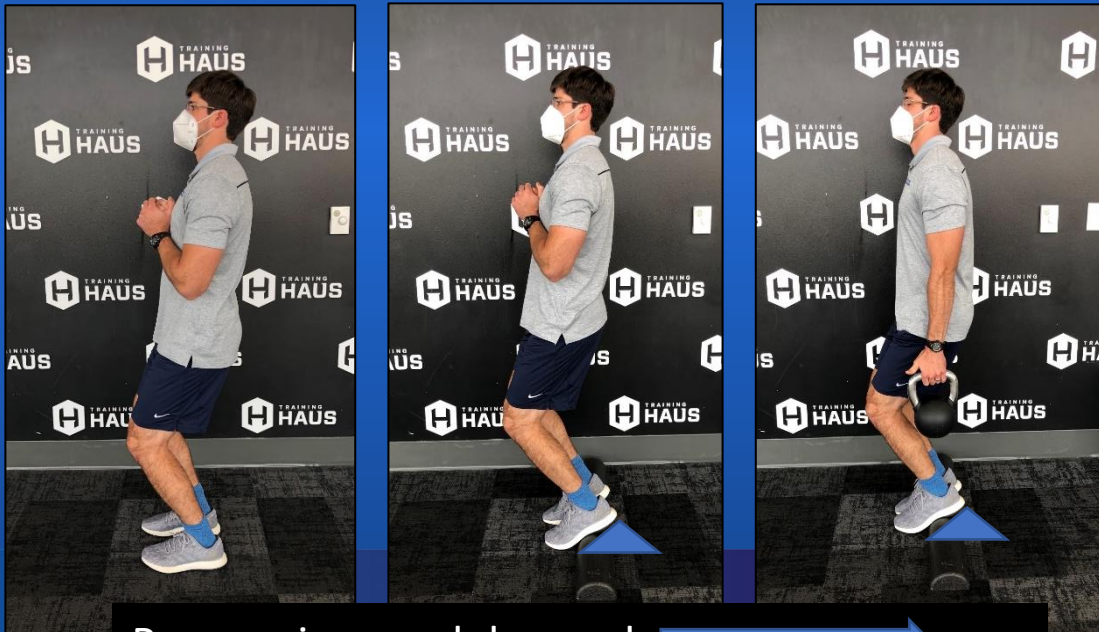
Early Load Progressions

Considerations:

- Pain, effusion, ROM, OKC vs. CKC, precautions, ensuring effective dose-response



Weight shift



Progressive quad demand

NWB activation

WB isometrics

Progressive depth

Heavy, slow eccentrics

Velocity-based
eccentrics

Restore Full Motion

Extension



Don't forget to address neural tension to restore full end range extension!

Flexion



Mobilization strategies to reduce posterior pinching with end range flexion progressions

Clean Up Time

Pain/Effusion

Range of Motion

Quad Function

Gait



Dr. LaPrade TRAC Testing Protocol: MLKR Patients



LOCAL PATIENTS:

- Do **NOT** need same-day testing corresponding with MD appointment
- Complete testing 1-3 weeks prior to MD visit (to allow for outcomes to be shared prior to date of MD visit)

OUT-OF-TOWN PATIENTS:

- Require same-day testing to correspond with MD appointment

Dr. J

Protocol:

- **Testing timelines are listed at the TOP OF EVAL NOTE and IN THE PROTOCOL**
- **Have patient call to schedule WELL IN ADVANCE**
- **WHEN IN DOUBT...EMAIL JILL!**
jillmonson@tcomn.com

LOC

- Do NOT schedule MD appointment
- Complete testing (allow for outcomes to be discussed at MD visit)

4 Month Clinical Testing Protocol: Baseline

Effusion



Girth:

calf, knee, thigh



Limb Length



ROM:

ankle, knee



Strength (HHD):

hip abduction



FUNCTIONAL TESTS



One Leg Rise Test

(Culvinor, 2016; Ericsson, 2013)



Y Balance Anterior Reach

(Smith, 2014; Stiffler, 2017)

4 month Training HAUS Lab Protocol: 45 min

1. Strength

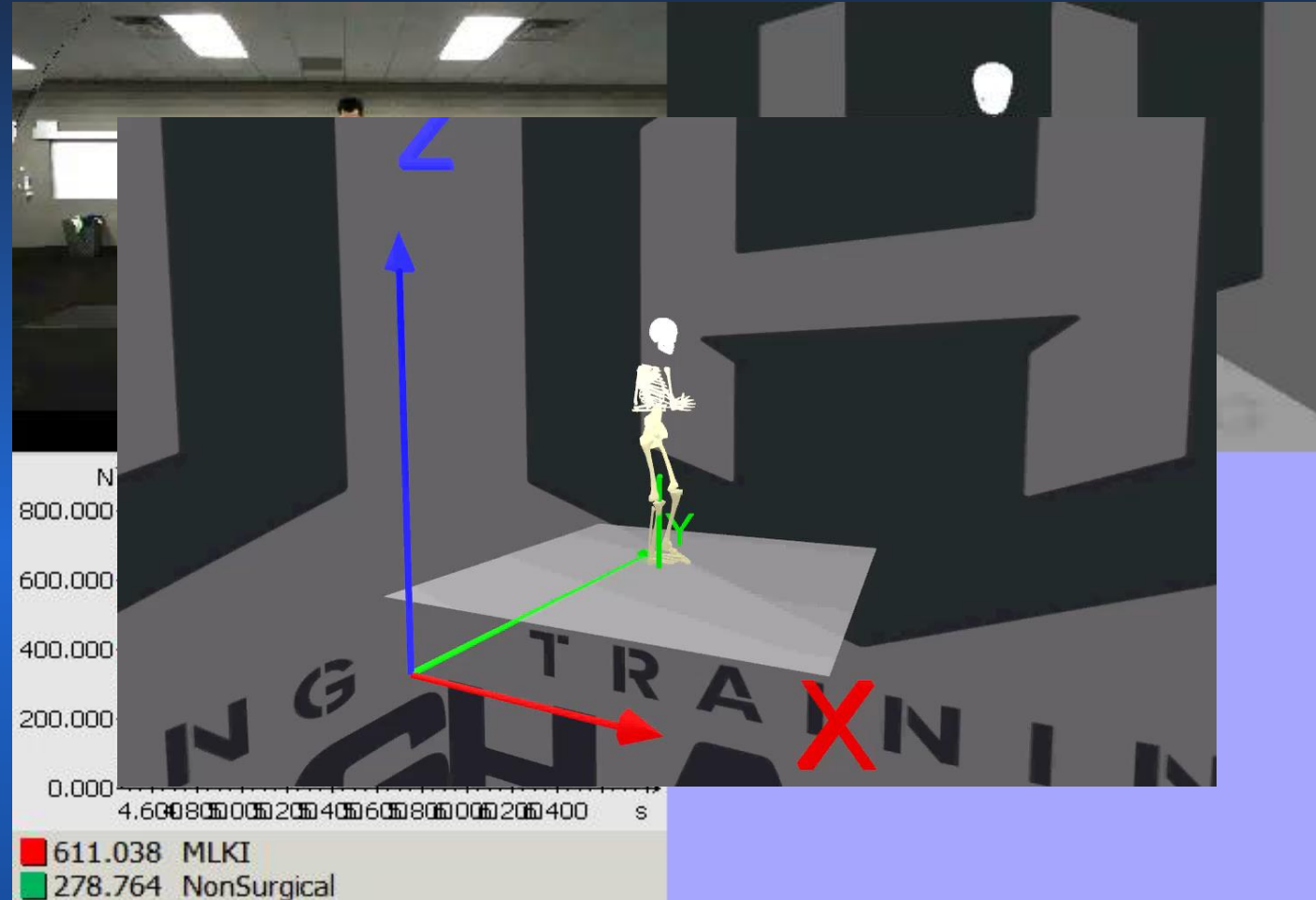
- Maximal Isometric Quadriceps Test @ 90° of flexion
- LSI and Relative strength to BW



4 month Training HAUS Lab Protocol: 45 min

2. Coordination

- Double Leg Squat
 - Force Distribution between Limbs
- Single leg squat
 - Sagittal/Frontal Strategy



Clean Up Time

Pain/Effusion

Range of Motion

Quad Function

Gait



POST OP RECOVERY PHASES



Anterior Loading Progressions

Emphasize:

- 85% on Front Limb
- Parallel Shin/Spine
- Neutral Hip



“Distalize” Load & Add Time Under Tension

Anterior Loading Progressions

Emphasize:

- 85% on Front Limb
- Parallel Shin/Spine
- Neutral Hip

ISOLATED QUAD exercise on the menu for a VERY LONG TIME

IDENTIFY and CORRECT QUAD AVOIDANCE in CKC



“Distalize” Load & Add Time Under Tension

Overload Progressions

Considerations for Loading:

- Pain, effusion, ROM, OKC vs. CKC, precautions, ensuring effective dose-response

“Kick Stand Squat”

- 85% of weight on Front Limb
- Parallel Shin/Spine
- Knee Over Toe
- Neutral Hip in Transverse/Frontal Plane
- Pressure through Big Toe, Ball of the Foot & Heel
- Goal is to prevent Hip Dominant squat strategy we often see in MLKR



NWB activation

WB isometrics

Progressive depth

Volume & Heavy, slow
eccentrics

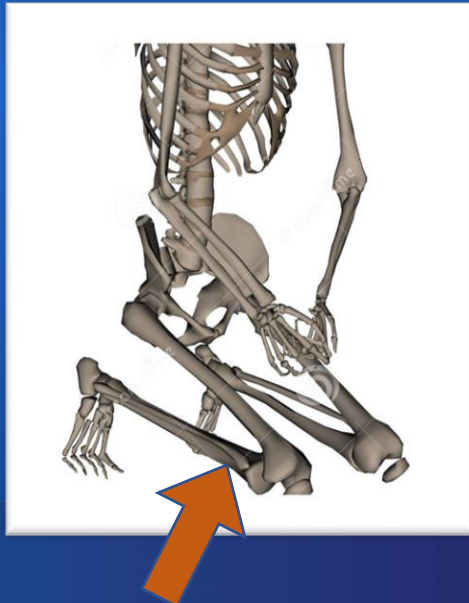
Velocity-based
eccentrics

Posterior Loading Progressions

Early:
avoid open
chain

Middle:
progressive
open chain

Late:
heavy,
eccentric



16-24+ weeks



>6 months

Caution with Nordics/Kneeling

****Wait until normal stress x-rays with MD at 6-month follow-up appointment****



Goals: Beyond Limb Symmetry Index (LSI)



Compare to pre-surgical limb status

EPIC (Estimated Pre-Injury Capacity) *(Wellsandt, 2017)*

[BRIEF REPORT]

ELIZABETH WELLSANDT, DPT, PhD^{1,2} • MATHEW J. FAILLA, PT, PhD^{1,3} • LYNN SNYDER-MACKLER, PT, ScD^{1,4}

Limb Symmetry Indexes Can Overestimate Knee Function After Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury

Compare to body size / dimensions


- “Allometric Scaling”: weight, height, limb length

Compare to healthy normals

- Appropriate matching: Age, Sex, Sport, Level of sport/experience



In Conclusion



Understand Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knee joint biomechanics<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Confounders
Master the early phases of rehab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote recovery while protecting multiple structures• Ask for help when needed
Clean up your messes!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Perfect</u> the early recovery goals before progressing to the “fun stuff”
Set goals & track outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure your patient’s progress• Adjust and progress your plan of care to promote continual positive changes

Thank you!

