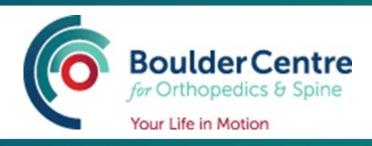
# Preventing and Treating ACL Injury

Brian Davis, MD Dual fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon

Boulder Centre for Orthopedics & Spine 720-743-2475









#### You

What should an orthopedic surgeon tell his community about ACL prevention and management?







#### ChatGPT

An orthopedic surgeon advising their community about ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) prevention and management might cover several key points. Here are some suggestions:

#### 1. Educate on ACL Anatomy and Function:

- . Explain the role of the ACL in knee stability.
- Describe how ACL injuries commonly occur during sports and physical activities.

#### 2. Preventive Measures:

- Emphasize the importance of warm-up exercises before engaging in physical activities.
- Encourage proper techniques and form during sports to reduce the risk of ACL injuries.
- Advocate for regular strength and conditioning exercises, focusing on the muscles around the knee joint.

#### 3. Awareness of High-Risk Activities:

 Identify sports or activities that have a higher risk of ACL injuries (e.g., soccer, basketball, skiing) and provide guidance on injury prevention strategies specific to those activities.

#### 4. Training Programs:

 Recommend ACL injury prever training programs, which may include agility drills, balance exercises, and neuromuscular training.

#### 5. Equipment and Gear:

- Stress the importance of using appropriate sports equipment and protective gear.
- · Advise on the proper selection and fitting of footwear.

#### 6. Post-Injury Management:

- Discuss the importance of prompt medical attention if an ACL injury is suspected.
- Provide information on initial first aid measures (e.g., rest, ice, compression, elevation) before professional medical assessment.

#### 7. Rehabilitation:

- Outline the stages of rehabilitation after an ACL injury or surgery.
- Stress the significance of following rehabilitation protocols and attending physical therapy sessions.

#### 8. Return-to-Play Guidelines:

- Educate on the criteria and benchmarks for a safe return to sports after an ACL injury.
- Emphasize the importance of not rushing the recovery process.

#### 9. Community Workshops and Events:

- Host workshops or events to engage the community in ACL injury prevention and management discussions.
- Offer hands-on demonstrations of preventive exercises and techniques.

#### 10. Collaborate with Schools and Sports Organizations:

- Work with local schools and sports organizations to implement ACL injury prevention programs.
- Provide resources and support for coaches and trainers in promoting safe practices.

### Outline



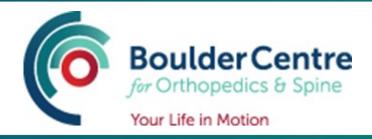
- Who am I?
- ACL Anatomy & Function
- ACL Injury Mechanism
- Prevention of ACL Injuries
- Diagnosis of ACL Injuries
- ACL Graft Options
- ACL Reconstruction
- Postoperative Rehab
- Hot Topics in ACL Injury
- Q&A





# Who is Brian Davis, MD?





### All about me!

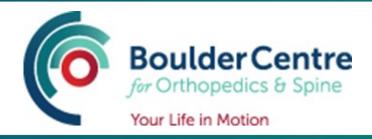




- Golden, CO native
- CSU Ram
- CU Med School
- Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX)
- Steadman Hawkins Clinic Denver (sports)
- Western Orthopaedics (shoulder & elbow)
- International fellowships
  - Prof. Dr. med. Ralph Hertel (Bern, Switzerland)
  - Professor Pascal Boileau (Nice, France)
- BoulderCentre for Orthopedics
- Wife & 2 kids!

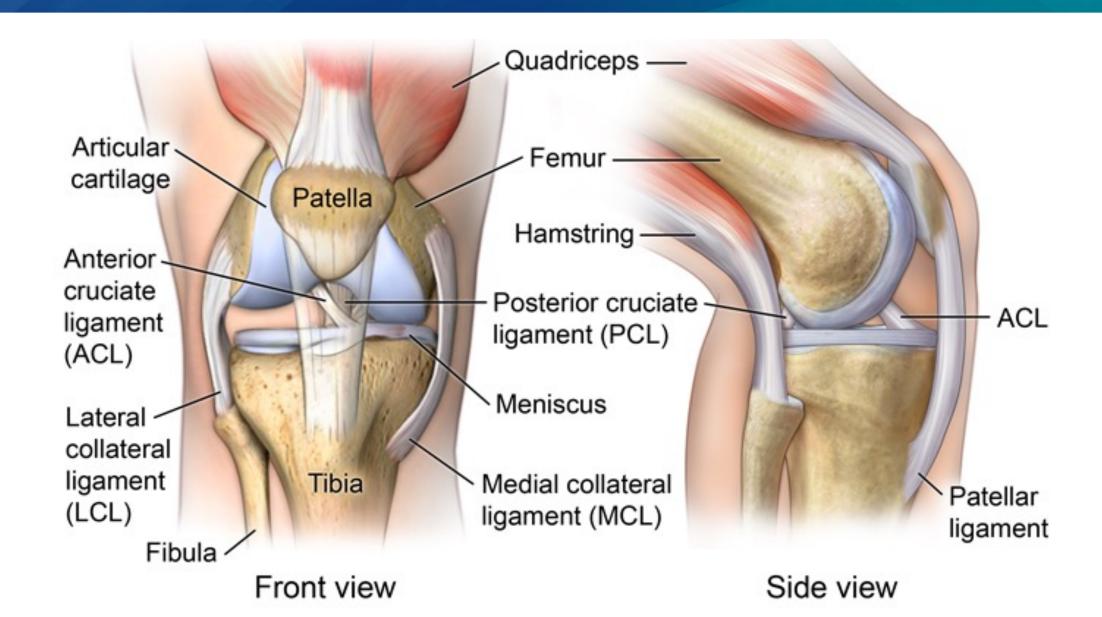
# **ACL Anatomy & Function**





## Knee Anatomy





## The Anterior Cruciate Ligament

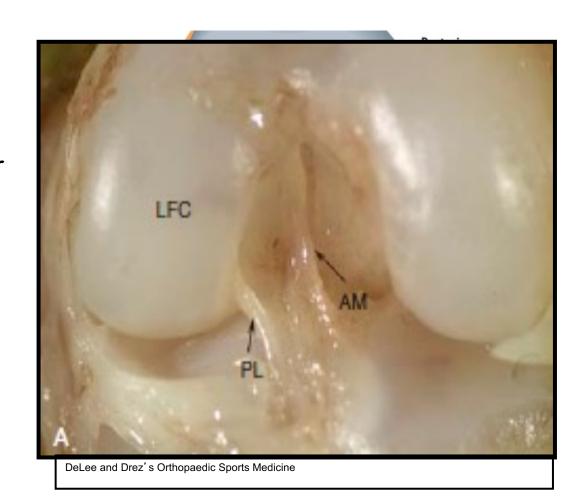


• Inside the intercondylar notch

• Starts on the lateral (outside) femur

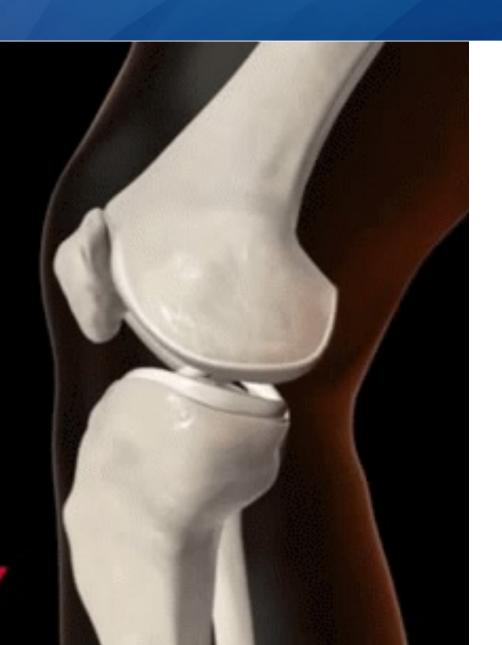
• Ends on the anterior (front) tibia

Composed of two bundles



### ACL Function



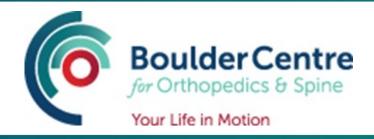


1) Restricts anterior-posterior (front-back) motion/translation

2) Prevents rotation

# **ACL Injury Mechanism**



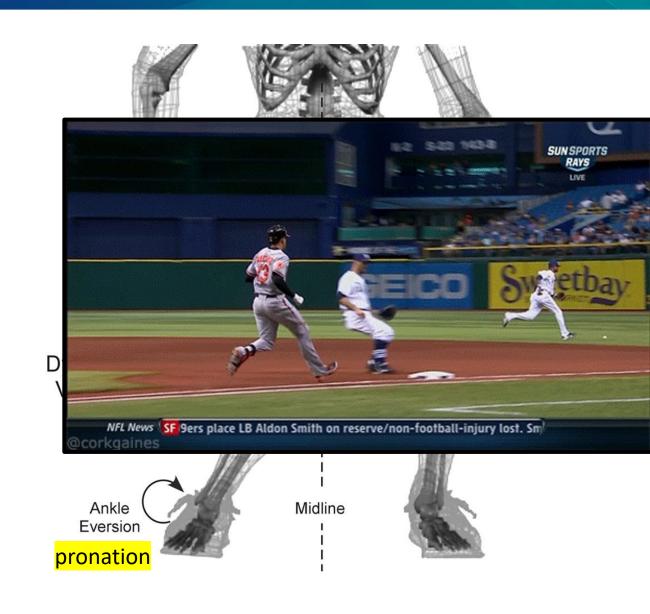


## ACL Injury Mechanism



70-85% non-contact injuries

- Knee in terminal extension
- Valgus collapse
- External rotation of tibia with foot planted



## ACL Injury Mechanism





- Classic history of ACL injury
  - Twisting episode on a bent knee, football tackle, or fall skiing
    - Failure of ski binding to release
  - Pop/snap felt in the knee
  - Knee gives way → fall
  - Severe pain
  - Feelings of instability when walking
  - Immediate swelling (within 1 hour)

## Risk Factors for ACL Injury

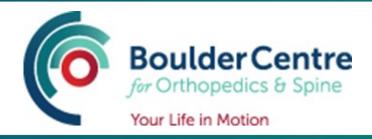


- Non-modifiable
  - Female gender (4-6x)
  - Tibial plateau anatomy (tibial slope)
  - Family history (2x)
  - Ligamentous laxity (3x)
    - Hypermobility or "loose-jointedness"
  - Age: 15-25 at highest risk
- Modifiable
  - Landing mechanics
  - Footwear
  - Playing surface
  - Sport: soccer, volleyball, handball, basketball



# Prevention of ACL Injuries

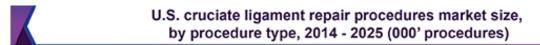


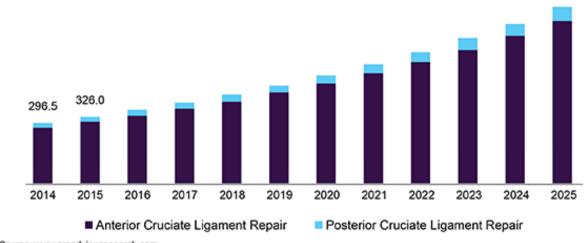


# ACL Injury Stats



- Affects >250,000 athletes in US annually
- 350,000 ACL reconstructions are performed in US annually
- After surgery,
  - 79% will still develop knee arthritis (>20 years after)
  - 1 in 4 athletes will have a second ACL injury
  - Less than half will return to sport at the same level
  - Mean \$13,000 cost per surgery





Source: www.grandviewresearch.com

### **ACL Injury Prevention**

- Common themes:
  - Strength, balance, plyometrics, coaching
- FIFA 11+
- Prevent Injury & Enhance Performance (PEP)
- 52% risk reduction in females
- 85% risk reduction in males

## **FIFA 11+**

#### PART 1 RUNNING EXERCISES - 8 MINUTES



STRAIGHT AHEAD



HIP OUT



HIP IN

White or jog easily stopping at each pair of cones to lift your kne his invapords. Afternate between left and right less at aucossiss





RUNNING SHOULDER CONTACT



**OUICK FORWARDS & BACKWARDS** 

#### PART 2 STRENGTH - PLYOMETRICS - BALANCE - 10 MINUTES



THE BENCH STATIC



THE RENCH ALTERNATE LEGS



THE BENCH ONE LEG LIFT AND HOLD



SIDEWAYS BENCH



SIDEWAYS BENCH **RAISE & LOWER HIP** 



SIDEWAYS BENCH





INTERMEDIATE





SINGLE-LEG STANCE HOLD THE BALL



SINGLE-LEG STANCE THROWING BALL WITH PARTNER



10 SINGLE-LEG STANCE





WALKING LUNGES





VERTICAL JUMPS



ILIMPING LATERAL JUMPS



12 BOX JUMPS

#### **RUNNING EXERCISES - 2 MINUTES**



RUNNING ACROSS THE PITCH



BOUNDING



PLANT & CUT

## **ACL Injury Prevention**



- Start at an early age → fewer ACL injuries
- Correct faulty biomechanics: knee valgus is a strong indicator of ACL injury risk
- Compliance: >66% → 82% reduced ACL injury rate
- Frequent participation: 20-30 mins several times per week
  - Starting in preseason and continuing throughout the season
- Verbal or visual feedback
- Exercise variety: **Plyometrics**, **balance**, **strengthening**







### Turf vs Grass Fields



2002

Anterior cruciate ligament injuries in the National Football League

Epidemiology and current treatment trends among team physicians

James P. Bradley, M.D. • John J. Klimkiewicz, M.D. • Michael J. Rytel, M.D. • John W. Powell, Ph.D., A.T.C

An Analysis of Specific Lower Extremity Injury Rates on Grass and FieldTurf Playing Surfaces in National Football League Games

2012

2000-2009 Seasons

Elliott B. Hershman,\*† MD, Robert Anderson,‡ MD, John A. Bergfeld,§ MD, James P. Bradley, MD, Michael J. Coughlin,¶ MD, Robert J. Johnson,# MD, Kurt P. Spindler,\*\* MD, Edward Wojtys,†† MD, and John W. Powell,‡† PhD, ATC, for the National Football League Injury and Safety Panel§§ Investigation performed at the National Football League Injury and Safety Panel, NFL, New York, New York, New York

2016

Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries in National Football League Athletes From 2010 to 2013

A Descriptive Epidemiology Study

Christopher C. Dodson,\*† MD, Eric S. Secrist,‡ BS, Suneel B. Bhat,† MD, Daniel P. Woods,§ MD, and Peter F. Deluca,† MD

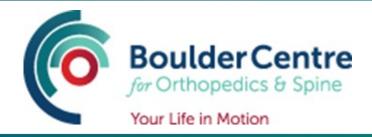
- No significant difference in ACL injury rate on grass versus AstroTurf
- 67% higher incidence of ACL injury on FieldTurf versus grass

 No significant difference in ACL injury rate on grass versus FieldTurf

• Bottom Line: The debate continues. 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation turf is associated with higher injury rates. 3<sup>rd</sup> generation turf has similar injury rates to grass.

# Diagnosis of ACL Injuries





# Diagnosis



- Exam
  - Anterior Drawer
  - Lachman
  - Pivot Shift

X-rays

MRI

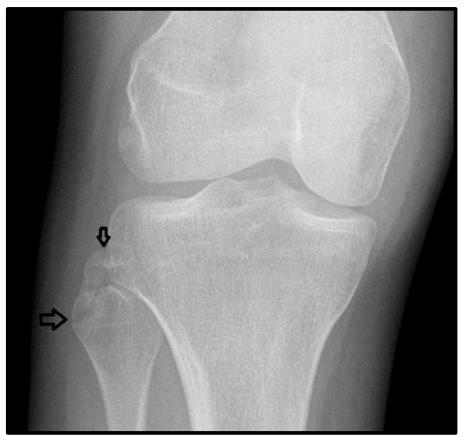




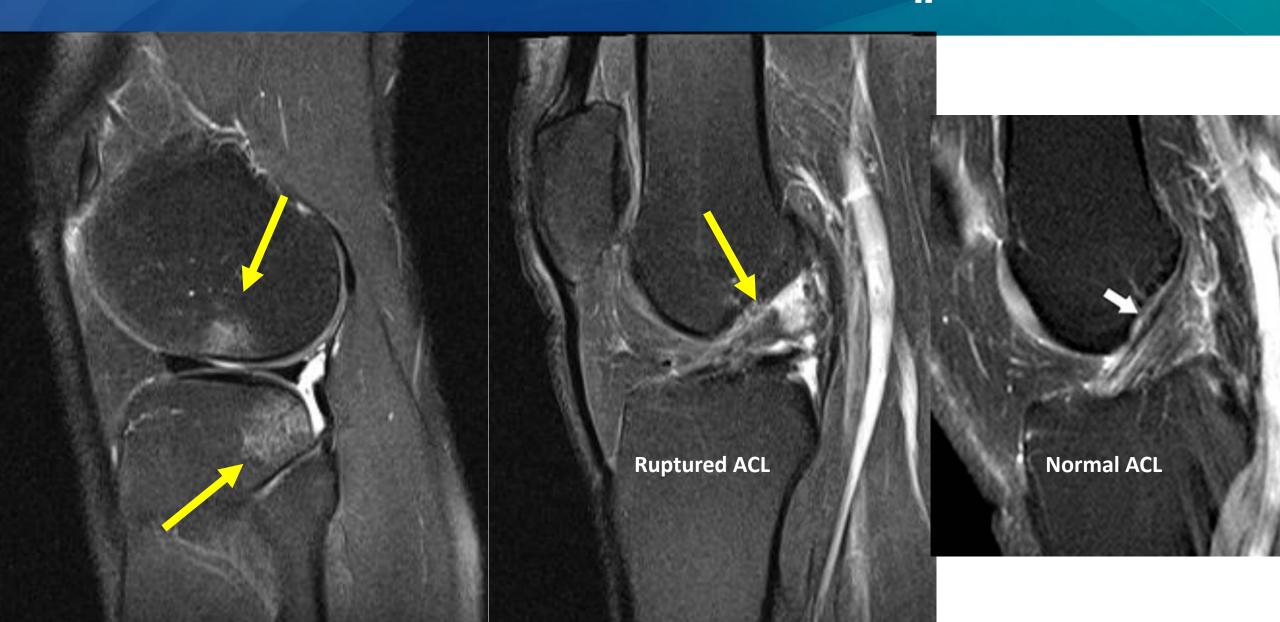


"Are X-rays necessary, doc?"









### "Doc, do I need surgery?"



- You can live without an ACL, but...
  - you should limit yourself to straight (in-line), low-impact activities only

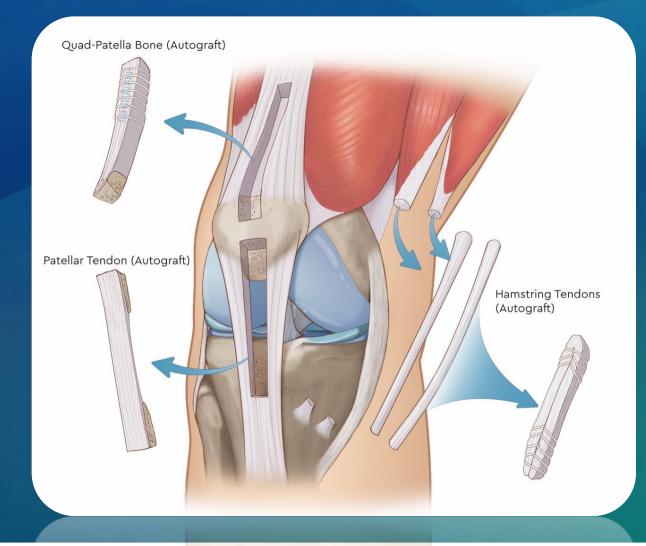
- Indications to do surgery
  - Physiologic young age with high activity level
    - especially cutting & pivoting sports/activities
  - Feelings of knee instability
  - Other knee injury (meniscus, cartilage) to address
  - Prevent cartilage or meniscal injury

### Nonsurgical ACL management

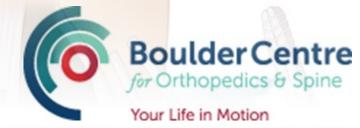


- Immediate RICE:
  - Rest
  - Ice (and anti-Inflammatories)
  - Compression
  - Elevation → Evaluation
- Brief immobilization, protected weight bearing
- Physical therapy and guided rehabilitation
- Functional bracing & activity modification
- Risks: recurrent instability, cartilage and/or meniscal injury

# **ACL Graft Options**







## It's not me, it's you...



### Autograft (your tissue)

- Your own tissue
- More predictable healing
- No risk of disease transmission
- Lower risk of failure

versus

- Donor site morbidity
- More painful & slower early recovery

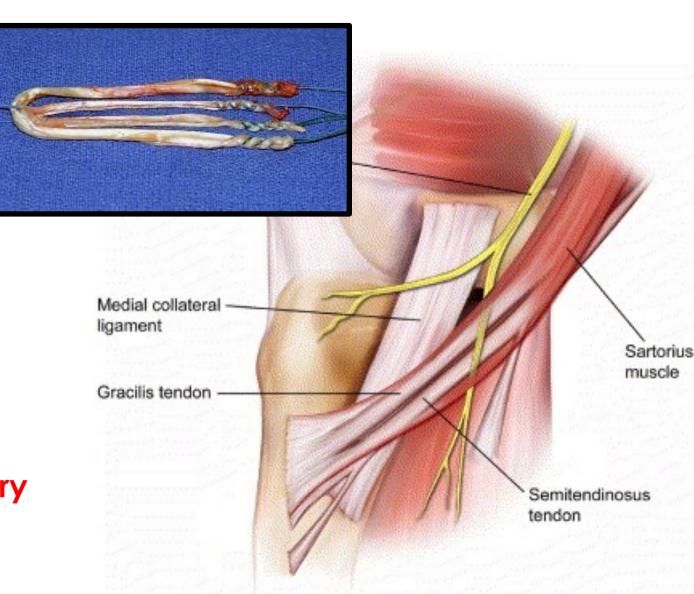
### Allograft (donor tissue)

- No donor-site morbidity
- Smaller incisions
- Shorter surgery
- Less painful, quicker early recovery
- Higher risk of failure
- Tiny risk of disease transmission

### Hamstring autograft

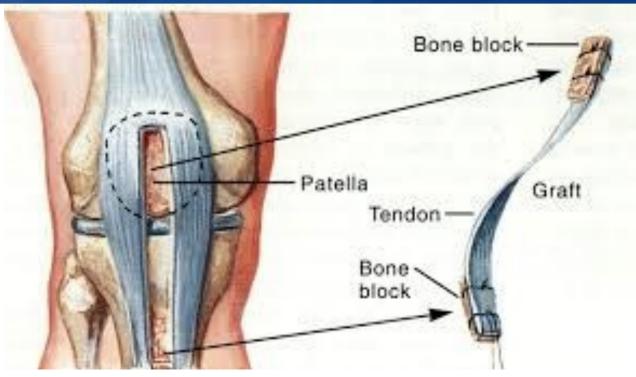


- Hamstring tendon (x2)
  - Smaller incision
  - Less painful
  - Earlier recovery
  - Hamstring weakness
  - May require allograft augmentation
  - Higher failure rate in young, female athletes
  - Risk of saphenous nerve injury



### Patellar tendon autograft







- BTB (bone-tendon-bone)
  - Bone to bone healing
  - Longest history of use
  - Lowest failure rates

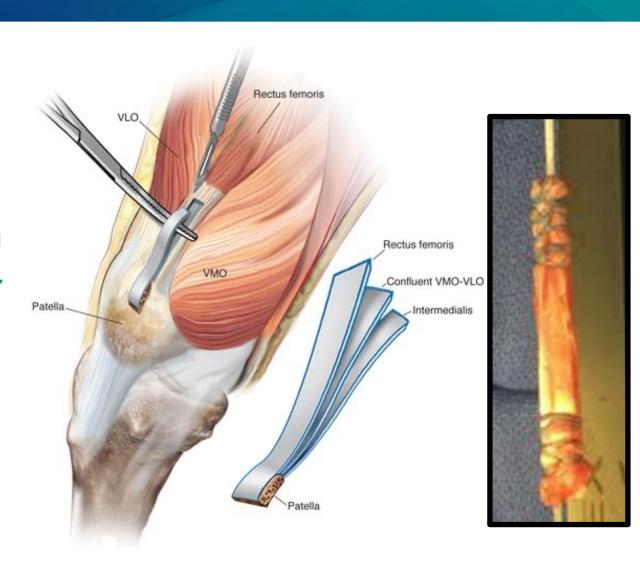


- 10-15% front of the knee pain
- Increased risk of arthritis
- Larger incision
- Longer surgery
- Early quadriceps weakness
- Risk of patella (kneecap) fracture

### Quad autograft



- Quadriceps tendon
  - Strong graft
  - Smaller incision than BTB
  - Less risk for front of the knee pain
  - Equivalent outcomes to the other grafts
  - Delayed quadriceps recovery
  - Less long-term outcomes (newer option)



## Allograft Options



- Tibialis anterior/posterior
- Hamstring tendons
- Bone patellar tendon bone

- Achilles tendon
- Quadriceps tendon
- Peroneus longus



3x higher risk of retear!

### OK... but, how do I decide?



### ACL Autograft Retear Risk Calculator

Age (14-22)

To estimate your risk of retearing your surgically reconstructed ACL by autograft, enter your age, weight, height, sex, sport and activity level. This calculator is valid for ages from 14 to 22 and only includes results for ACL autograft using patellar tendon or hamstring. While reconstruction using a quadriceps tendon is growing in use, there is insufficient long-term research to include it in the calculator.

Sex			
∘ MALE	o FEMALE		
Height and weight			
Feet			
Inches			
Pounds			
Sport			
			<b>~</b>

### **ACLtear.info**



Please indicate how often you performed each activity in your healthiest and most active state during the last 12 nonths.				
unning				
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utting				
	~			
eceleration				
	~			
voting				
	~			
CALCULATE YOUR RESULTS				

### OK... but, how do I decide?



#### Risk Assessment for Autograft Failure (Retear) Within Six years

Normal Knee Laxity (Looseness)

Patellar Tendon Hamstring

2.4% 4.9%

Based on your input, each box predicts the six-year failure risk for each autograft with normal knee laxity (determined through medical examination). If the difference in retear risk is:

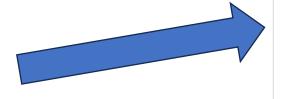
- Less than three percent, both graft boxes will be green.
- Between three and five percent, the higher risk graft is yellow.
- Greater than five percent, the higher risk graft is red.

#### High-Grade Knee Laxity

Patellar Tendon	Hamstring	
5.4%	10.8%	

Based on your input, each box predicts the six-year failure risk for each autograft with high knee laxity (determined through medical examination). If the difference in retear risk is:

- Less than three percent, both graft boxes will be green.
- Between three and five percent, the higher risk graft is yellow.
- Greater than five percent, the higher risk graft is red.



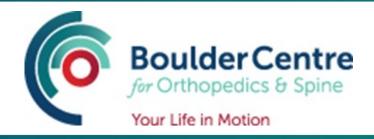
# Risk of tearing your non-injured ACL within 6 years: 9.6%

This predicts the probability of tearing the ACL in your opposite (contralateral) uninjured knee within 6 years.

#### WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER KNEE?

# **ACL Reconstruction**





### ACL Reconstruction



ACL reconstruction is the "gold standard"



- Often, "prehab" is necessary to optimize knee motion and reduce stiffness before surgery
- Outpatient/same day surgery
- Arthroscopic surgery
- General anesthesia +/- nerve block

### ACL Reconstruction



- 1) Diagnostic arthroscopy
- 2) Manage meniscus tears, cartilage injury
- 3) Harvest/prep graft
- 4) Drill tunnels
- 5) Insert graft
- 6) Secure graft

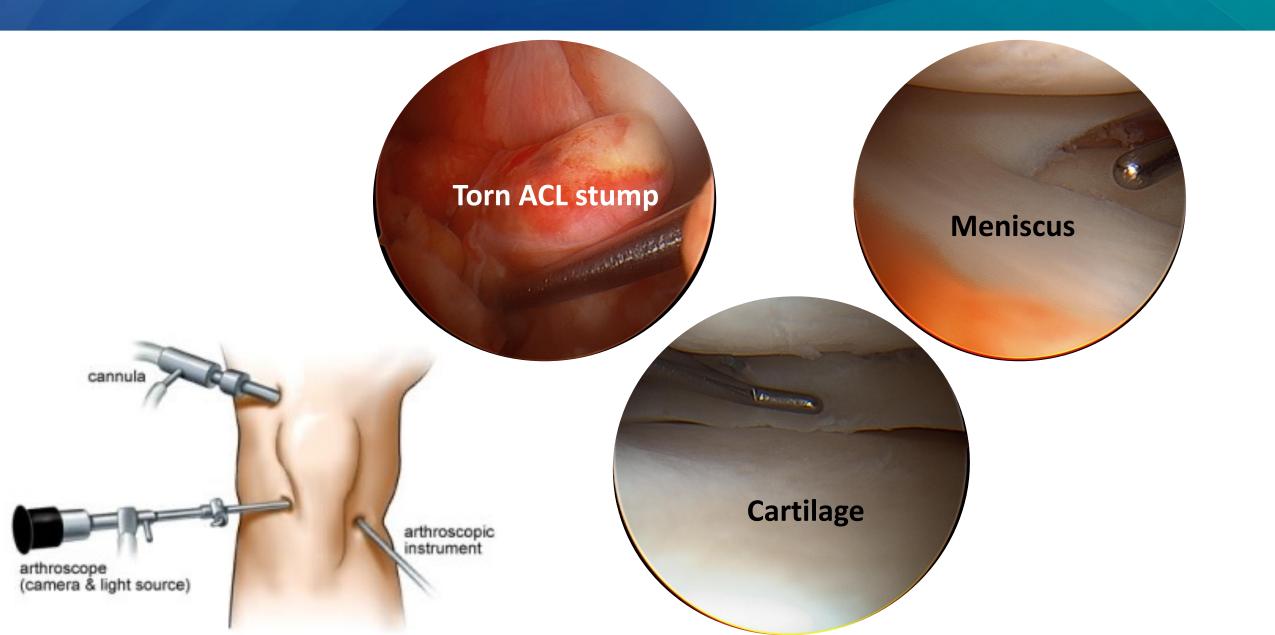




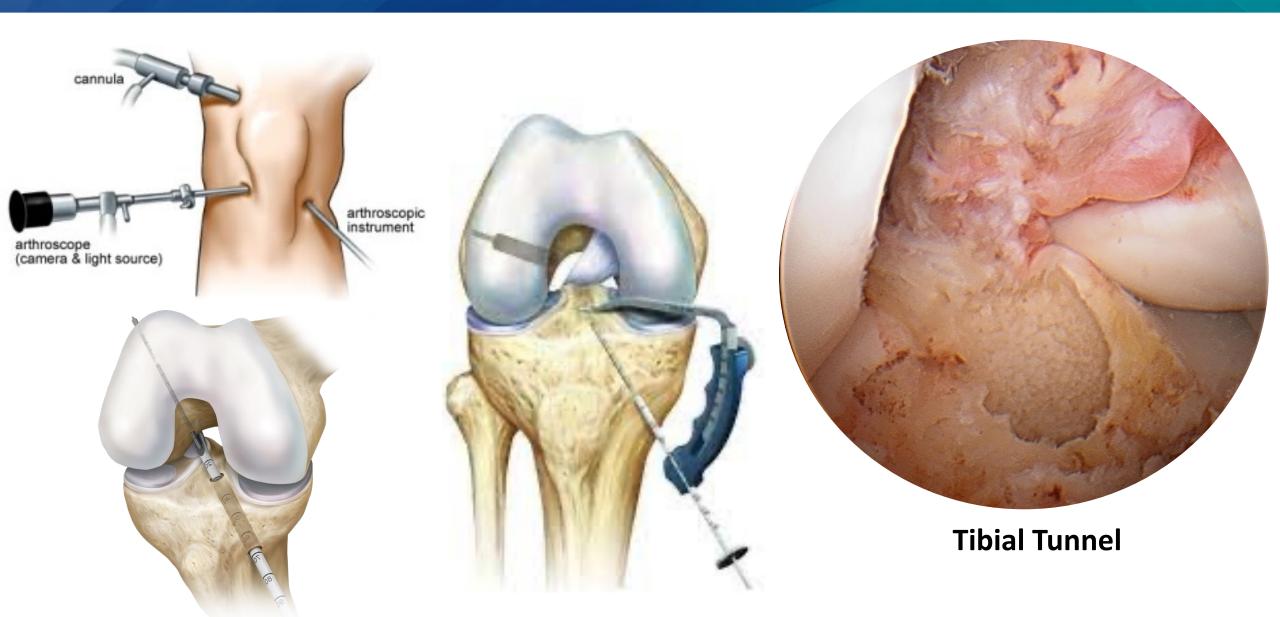


https://www.coloradosportsmeddoc.com/patient-education-videos-orthopedic-surgeon-broomfield-boulder-co/

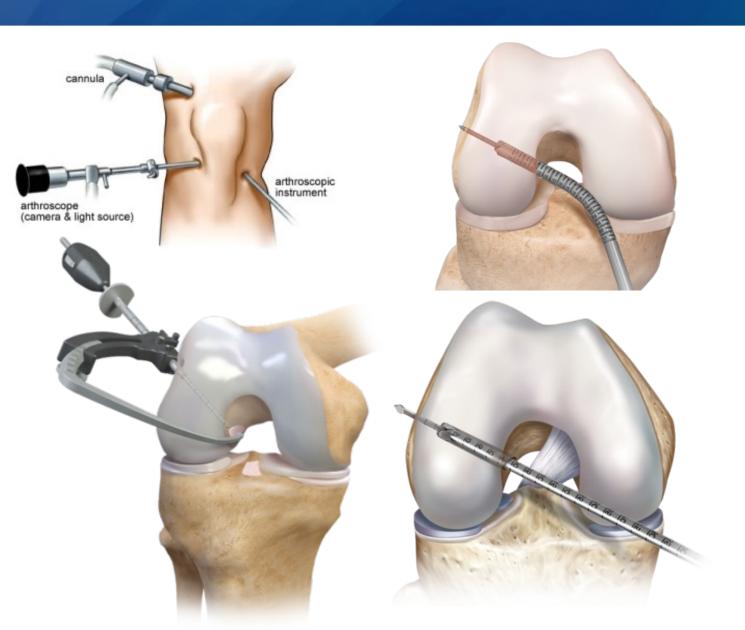








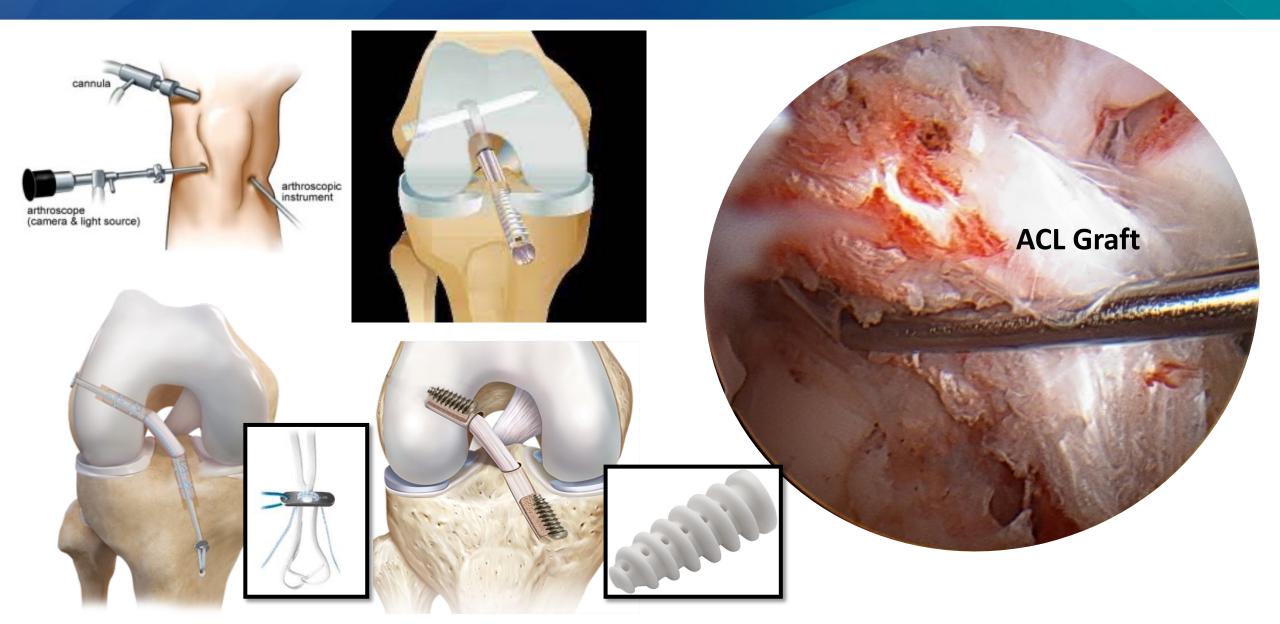




#### **Femoral Tunnel**

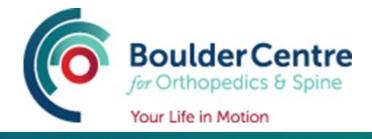






# Postoperative ACL Reconstruction Rehab





#### Postop ACLR Rehab



- Depends on meniscus and cartilage status!
  - If meniscus or cartilage repair performed → slowed initial rehab
- For ACL reconstruction only:
  - Partial weight bearing for 2 weeks
  - Hinged knee brace for 6-8 weeks
  - Range of motion exercises for 3 months
  - Strengthening after 3+ months
  - Light-impact at 4-6 months
  - Sport-specific training/testing at 7-9 months
  - Return to sport at 12+ months





#### Postop ACLR Rehab





- Early Rehab Goals
  - Decrease knee swelling
  - Symmetric knee extension and flexion
  - Quad activation
  - Weight bearing as tolerated as soon as feasible
  - Structured rehabilitation program
  - Open communication between therapist, surgeon, and patient

#### Bracing





- Protects meniscal repair & MCL/LCL
- During early postop rehab, no difference in outcomes
- Inconclusive data to support knee bracing for return to sport to prevent ACL re-injury
- But, may reduce risk of subsequent knee injury **when skiing** by 2.7x

#### Outcomes

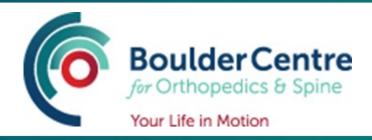


- Satisfaction
  - 85% "very satisfied"
  - 98% would have ACL reconstruction again
- Return to sport\*: 87% overall
- Graft survival
  - Adults: 86%
  - Adolescents: 61%

- Complications:
  - blood clot: <1%</li>
  - wound issues: <1%
  - deep infection: <2%</li>
  - knee extension deficit: 1-38%
  - knee arthritis: up to 25% at 10 years
  - nerve or vessel injury
  - residual laxity
  - scarring

### Hot Topics in ACL Reconstruction

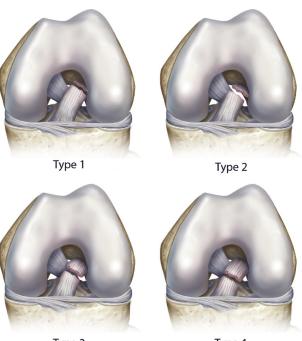




#### ACL Repair



- Less invasive, no graft harvest
- Best for proximal avulsions (off the femur)
- Often augmented with suture tape or "Bridge-Enhanced ACL Repair" implant
- Re-rupture rate: 7-20%

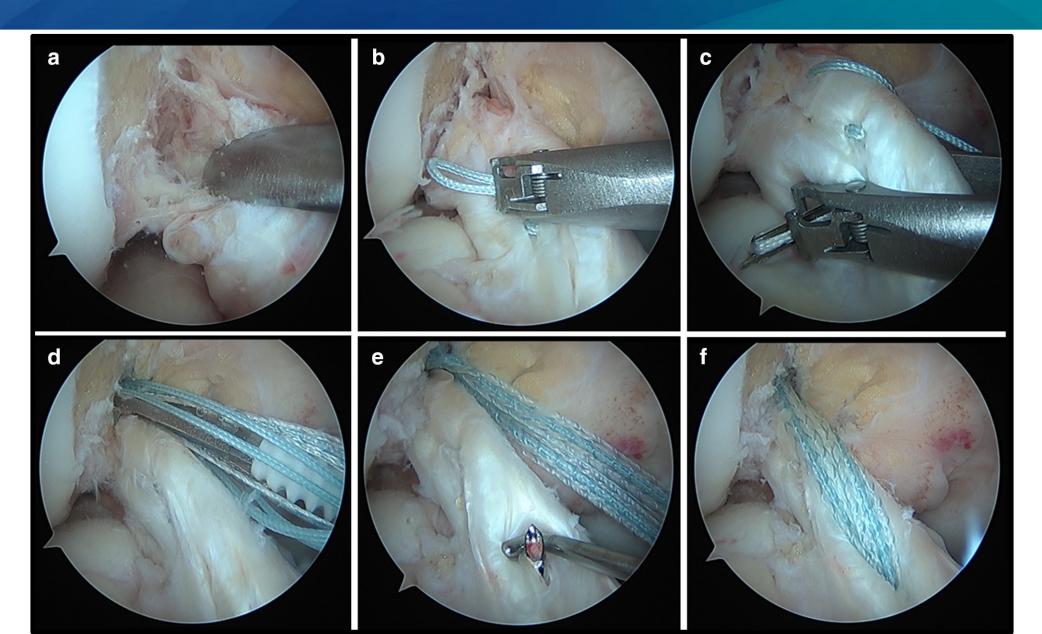






### ACL Repair

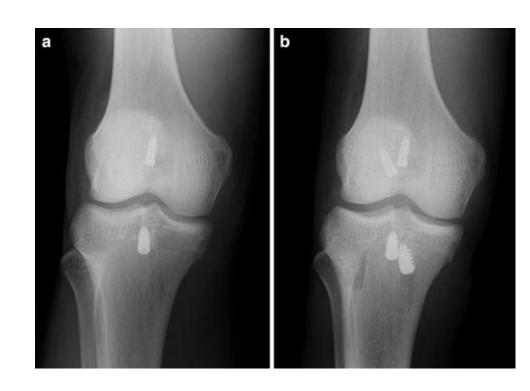




#### Revision ACL Reconstruction



- Graft rupture rates between 6-32%
- More likely in males
- Most common reason for revision:
  - Recurrent trauma/graft failure
  - Technical error
  - Failure of graft to incorporate
- May require 2+ surgeries
- Outcome is not as good as primary ACL reconstruction
  - Lower return to sport















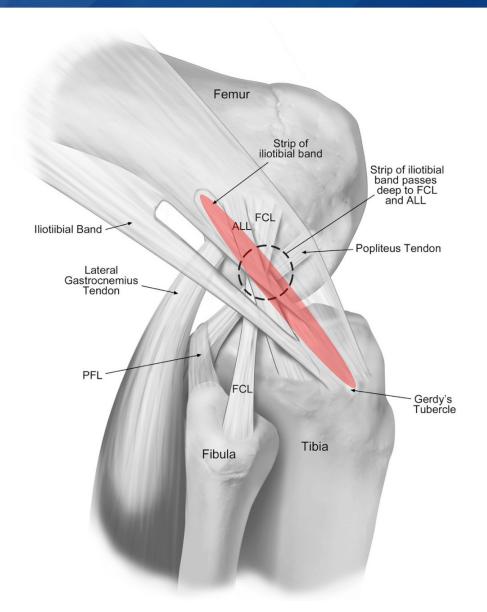












- ACL reconstruction PLUS
  - Lateral extra-articular tenodesis
  - Anterolateral ligament reconstruction
- For young, hypermobile patients
   OR revision ACL reconstruction
  - 2.5x reduction in graft failure rate in young patients
  - Higher rotational stability than ACL reconstruction alone
  - Lower revision rate  $(1.4\% \vee 5.4\%)$
- But, increased surgical time and morbidity

### Thank you!

Questions?

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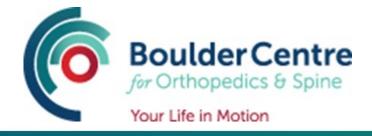


## For more info: www.BrianDavisMD.com









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### Preventing and Treating ACL Injury

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