MRI of the menisci

MRI = CT A°

MENISCI

tears, fragments, instability

Horizontal tear

MRI

CTA

Vertical tear

• Vertical
  longitudinal
  radial (perpendicular)
  oblique (parrot-beak)

• Horizontal

• Complex

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**Vertical, Longitudinal subtype**

**Vertical, Radial subtype (perpendicular)**

*anterior horn of lateral meniscus*

« leave me alone lesion »

Tuckman GA AJR 1994;163:395

**« Particular case »**

Root tear (posterior horn)

**Complication**

Bone impactions, subchondral fractures, SONK

**Vertical**

Parrot-beak tear

*Radial component*

*Longit. component*

**Horizontal**
Complex

Joint space

Notch: «bucket-handle» tear

Notch: posterior

Superior and inferior meniscal recesses

Chen HC Acta Radiologica 2001; 42:417

De Maeseneer et al. Three Layers of the Medial Capsular and Supporting Structures of the Knee: MR Imaging-Anatomic Correlation Radiographics2000; 20; S83-S89
Abnl shape
Substance Loss?

Fragment hunting!

Superior recess

Inferior recess

Concurrent frgmts!

Meniscal tears with displaced fragments: common patterns on magnetic resonance imaging

A (frequent) clue...
Adjacent bone edema and/or deformity (subtle)

Displaced fragment = Absolute criterion of instability

See the substance loss, edema
Know the locations
Think concurrent
Surgery? …Not always (small lesions?)