Diagnostic and treatment of deep MCL detachment.

P. NEYRET C. BATAILLER D.WASCHER





The authors of the next presentation have identified no following potential conflicts of interest.



UNIVERSITY TEACHING CENTER







Introduction.

MCL injury is one of the most common knee injuries
 Incidence : 0.24 - 7.3/1000 individuals per year.
 Roach (Am J Sports Med. 2014)

- With a great potential to heal
- Early surgery may however be indicated for a major MCL injury with a multiple ligamentous injury.

Introduction.

But the deep MCL tears are an exception:

- ⇒ They cause persistent pain which prevents a return to high-level sports.
- \Rightarrow A precise diagnosis must be established
- \Rightarrow A surgical treatment can be thus indicated.



Three-layered structure

Layer I (most superficial) : continuation of the fascia lata

+ Layer II : superficial MCL

+ Layer III : deep MCL

Warren (JBJS. 1979) Indelicato (J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 1995) Gianotti (Sports Med Arthrosc Rev. 2006)

Deep MCL

- + More deep that the superficial MCL.
- Distinct but inseparable from the joint capsule
- + Attached to the medial meniscus
- + Width: 0.5-0.9 cm
- + Long: 2.9-3.3cm
- Divided into meniscofemoral and meniscotibial components



Robinson (JBJS. 2004)



✦ Insertion:

Immediately distal and posterior to the attachment of the superficial MCL, on the inferior aspect of the femoral epicondyle, 15 mm to 17 mm proximal to the margin of the femoral articular cartilage.

+ Terminaison:

2 mm to 3 mm distal to the margin of the articular surface of the medial tibial plateau.



MCL function.

✦ Deep MCL:

A secondary restraint to valgus load
A restraint against external rotation torque
in knee flexed between 30° and 90°

 ⇒ Meniscofemoral portion : valgus stabilization at all tested flexion angles
 ⇒ Meniscotibial portion : valgus stabilization at 60° of knee flexion

> Griffith (Am J Sports Med. 2009) Robinson (Am J Sports Med. 2006)

+ 41 yrs old male

Right Knee

+ 69 kg – 175 cm – BMI: 22.5

Medical history :
1st sprain at 16 years old
2nd sprain in 2012
Difficulties to return to sports (foot) in 2013

+ Chronic and permanent pain since 2 yrs.

+ Physical Examination

- Genu varum (0.5+0.5)
- ROM: 2-0-140 (vs 2-0-145)
- No frontal or sagittal laxity
- Paroxysmal pain on MCL femoral insertion







+ Echography:

Ossifications in the MCL femoral insertion

\Rightarrow Diagnosis:

Pseudarthrosis of deep MCL on the femoral insertion Pellegrini-Stieda syndrome

+ Bone scanning:

Hyper fixation on the deep MCL femoral insertion.





Treatment :

- Arthroscopy first
 Cartilage, meniscus, cruciate ligament assessment
 Assessment of Opening of medial joint line
- Medial approach
 Assessment of MCL calcification
 => Remove if only calcification
 => Bone fixation if MCL detachment.









Sar... bernard 1946



















Bartlett view No Posterior Translation







Deep MCL injury

+ Associated injuries:

Often isolated for low grade injury
ACL injury : 20 % of MCL injury grade I

76.9 % - 78 % of MCL injury grade III

PCL injury: 11 % of PCL reconstructions
Medial meniscus: 5-33 % of MCL injuries

Bonasia (Iowa Orthop J. 2012) Delong (Arthroscopy. 2015)

Deep MCL injury Conservative Treatment.

Acute isolated grade I or II injuries

 \Rightarrow Control of pain and swelling

(rest, ice, NSAIDs, physiotherapy)

- ⇒ Hinged knee brace for 3 weeks to avoid valgus stress
- \Rightarrow Immediate knee range of motion exercises
- \Rightarrow Early weight-bearing

Wijdicks (JBJS 2010)

- Indications In Acute :
 - ⇒ Associated meniscotibial ligament and destabilisation of meniscus
 - \Rightarrow Associated ACL or PCL injuries (grade III).
 - \Rightarrow Severe valgus alignement
 - \Rightarrow Intra articular MCL entrapment
 - \Rightarrow Large bony avulsions

Bonasia (Iowa Orthop J. 2012) Wijdicks (JBJS 2010)

Indications In Chronic:

Persistent symptoms despite rehabilitation (grade I +/- II): Pain or Instability

Chronic laxity/pain by isolated MCL injury.

⇒ Location of tear:
Meniscofemoral or meniscotibial laxity
Bony avulsions
Ligament rupture near the bone

 ⇒ Assessment on MRI and by Arthroscopy
 ⇒ Guide the surgical treatment Müller (Form, Function, and Ligament Reconstruction, 1982)

Surgical approach

⇒ Examination under anesthesia
⇒ Arthroscopic assessment to search associated lesions
(Perform quickly to minimize fluid extravasation)
⇒ Open surgery according to indication
⇒ A peripheral tear of medial meniscus is commonly seen and repaired (33%)

Bonasia (Iowa Orthop J. 2012) Narvani (JBJS 2010)

✦ Deep MCL repair.

- Medial incision from the medial proximal tibia to the medial femoral epicondyle
- Should repair from the deepest structure outward
- MF ligament tear: Sutures alone or suture anchors
- MT ligament tear: Suture anchors fixation
- ⇒ Repair of the deep structures is completed with the knee held in varus and full extension
- ⇒ Ligaments can be elongated, thus a tension sutures must be performed

Bonasia (Iowa Orthop J. 2012) Narvani (JBJS 2010)

✦ Deep MCL reconstruction.

- \Rightarrow Many techniques
- ⇒ Mainly used in superficial MCL and posteromedial corner tears
- \Rightarrow Autograft used: semitendinosus and gracilis tendons
- ⇒ Fixation by cancellous screw, interference screw or soft tissue washer

Bonasia (Iowa Orthop J. 2012) Narvani (JBJS 2010)

- + Bony reattachment of MCL insertions
 - ⇒ To restore ideal length and position of MCL insertion⇒ Fixation by screw
 - \Rightarrow Favorable prognostic, with often a good healing
 - \Rightarrow If there is a purely ligamentous rupture, the screw and toothed wascher can be performed
 - \Rightarrow The fixation will be with a satisfactory quality

Müller (Form, Function, and Ligament Reconstruction, 1982)

Deep MCL injury Outcomes.

Deep MCL surgery.

- Complete recovery for all patients (n=17) at 12 wk
- All patients asymptomatic at the last FU (mean fu 48 wk)
- Full training possible at 12 weeks after operation.
- Mean time to return to competitive sport: 17 weeks
 4 patients / 17 have a sensory deficit of the infrapatellar branch of the saphenous nerve

Conclusion.

The isolated deep MCL injuries are rare, particularly the MCL detachment.

✦ They can cause chronic pain and instability, which prevent the return to high level sport.

 \bullet The diagnosis must be evoked.

✦ For chronic tears, the treatment must be surgical by a retension of deep MCL.



Deep MCL injury Rehabilitation.

★ Early motion to reduce stiffness
★ Brace in extension 6-8 wk
★ Partial weight bearing with brace 6-8 wk
★ Stationary bike after 8 wk
★ Running progression program after 3-4 months
★ Contact sport after 6 months

Narvani (JBJS 2010)

Narvani described for 17 deep MCL tears:
 The deep MCL was torn just distal to its proximal attachment. No deep MCL insertion detachment.

✦ Surgery:

- Arthroscopy first: search occult injuries
- Repair persisting disruption of deep MCL

- or Transfer proximally of deep MCL femoral attachment

- or Bony reattachment by bone anchors

Narvani (JBJS 2010)