# How strong is fixation needed after repaired/reconstructed ligament?

Mike Carmont



# More Research



## More Research



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#### Essence

The initial fixation needs to be strong enough to stabilize the ligament or graft during initial rehabilitation until incorporation occurs



## Jacques Menetrey

- Time frame of graft healing
- Bone-Patellar tendon-Bone
  - -6-8 weeks
- Hamstring
  - -8-12 weeks



Rodeo JBJS Am 1993 Clancy JBJS Am 1981

# Key aspects rehabilitation

- Reduction of Pain
- Reduction of Swelling
- Improve Range Of Motion
- Normalize Strength
- Normalize Dynamic Stability
- Functional Return to Play



## Key aspects rehabilitation

- Reduction of Pain
- Reduction of Swelling
- Improve range of motion
- Normalize strength
- Normalize dynamic stability

- Too much load > graft rupture
- Too little load >
   inadequate stimulus
   healing > graft rupture

#### **Problems**

- Little literature on in vivo studies
- Typically non-athletic population
- ACL strain difficult to measure
- Invasive, time consuming & costly
- Accuracy
  - Many variations of squat, stance, hip rotation, trunk position

#### **Problems**

- Experimental biomechanical knee models
- Allow wide range exercises/resistance/ROM
- In-expensive
- Non-invasive
- BUT not direct measurement only an estimate
- May be limited to a single plane of motion
- Not representative of poor core control

#### **Problems Donor Tissue**

- Bone-Patellar tendon-Bone
  - Quadriceps inhibition due pain & swelling
  - Limits voluntary quads strengthening
- Hamstrings
  - Allow recovery of harvest site







## Seated knee extension (ROM)

- Peak loading level walking = NWB seated isometric & isokinetic
- Peak 3.2-4.4% Strain
- 10-30° knee flexion
- 150-350N



- Isometric & isokinetic
- No loading ACL
- Loading Hamstrings



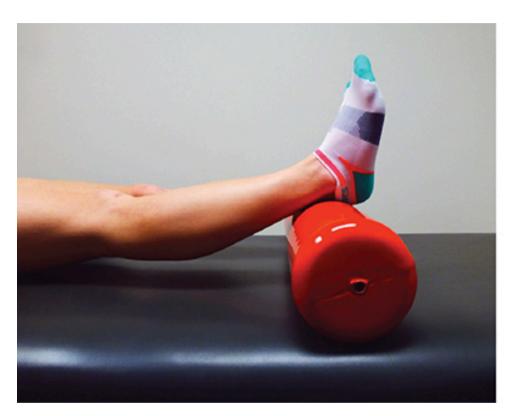
## Beware active recovery extension

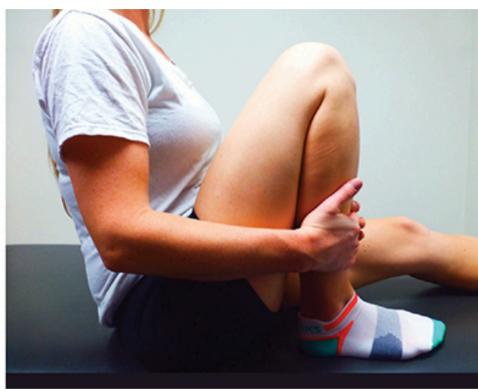




Unopposed quadricepspassive extension

### Passive extension





Load beneath heel, weight beneath knee

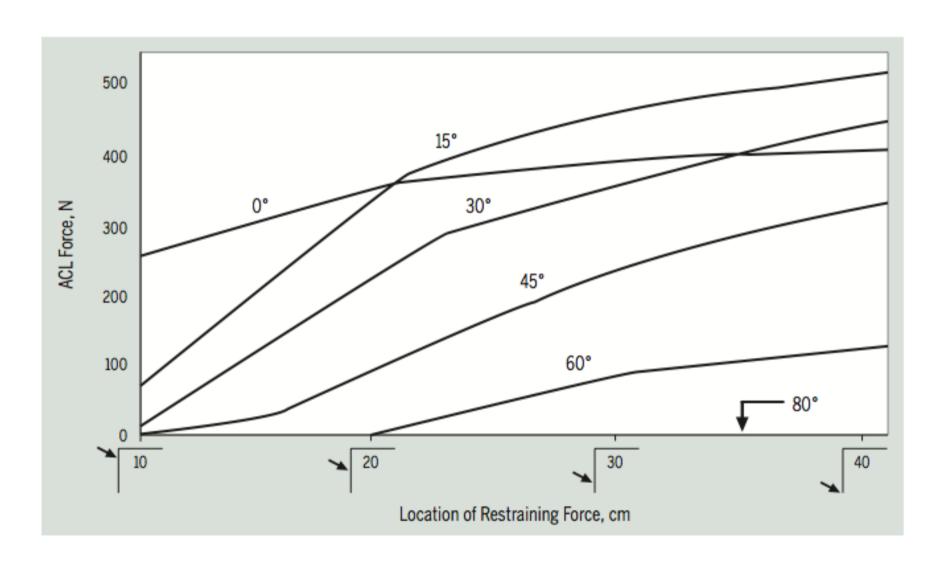
# Seated Knee Extension with addition of weight (Strengthening)





Location of the resistance pad is important

### Strain vs. location force distal knee



# Weight Bearing vs. Non-Weight Bearing

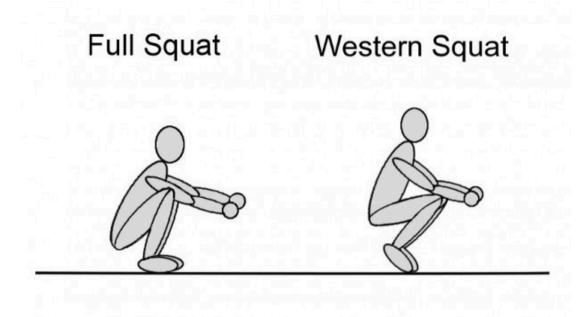
- More functional
- Multi Joint
- Effective hip & thigh musculature
- Walking ground level
- 300N opposite toe off
- Knee 10-20° flexion
- Single squat 59N





Forward lunge low ACL load as Hamstring activation 150N

## Squats



- Increase hamstrings activity > unloading ACL
- Peak force = 200N
- Trunk position forward flexion > Decrease loading
- Heels off ground > Increased loading ACL tibial plateau

# Summary

- Fixation adequate for rehab
- Consider ROM
- Closed kinetic chain
- Weight bearing
- Functional exercises
- Only until graft incorporates



