

# Management of first-time patella dislocation

---

Pr Elvire Servien MD PhD, Nicolas CANCE,  
Lyon North University Hospital, Lyon, France

# Etiologies of first time patellar dislocation

- Traumatic PF dislocation (High energy)
- Atraumatic PF dislocation (Low energy)
  - 96-98% of cases : abnormal factors
  - 2-4% : normal anatomy
- Chronic patellar instability  
100% of abnormal factors



Article

## Chondral Injury in Patellofemoral Instability

Timothy Lording<sup>1,2</sup>, Sébastien Lustig<sup>2</sup>, Elvire Servien<sup>2</sup>,  
and Philippe Neyret<sup>2</sup>

Cartilage  
2014, Vol. 5(3) 136–144  
© The Author(s) 2014  
Reprints and permissions:  
[sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav](http://sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav)  
DOI: 10.1177/1947603514530142  
[cart.sagepub.com](http://cart.sagepub.com)



# Etiologies of first time patellar dislocation

Traumatic (High energy)  
normal anatomy



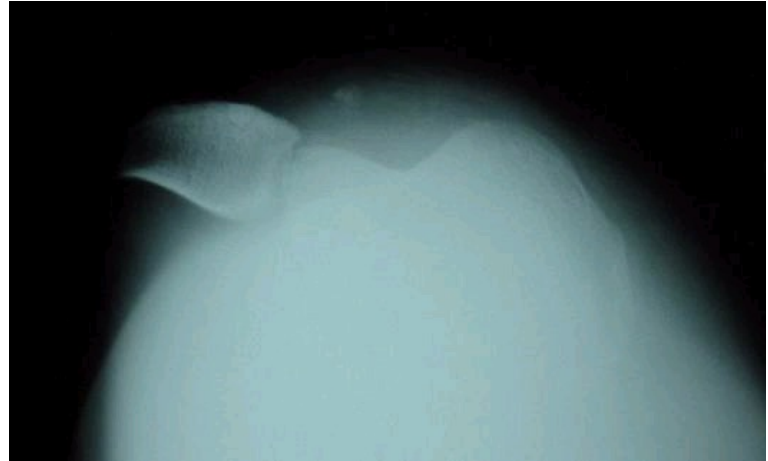
« Atraumatic » (Low energy)  
abnormal anatomy ( risk factors)



# First time dislocation

- Acute patellar dislocation
  - Injury ( handball)
  - normal anatomy

Osteochondral fracture +++



# « Traumatic »

## High incidence of chondral & osteochondral fracture

- normal anatomy

The only way for the patella to dislocate during the injury is to  
« break the bridge »

normal x-rays !

MRI+++



## « Traumatic »

Look for a chondral & osteochondral fracture  
medial patellar facet  
lateral femoral condyle

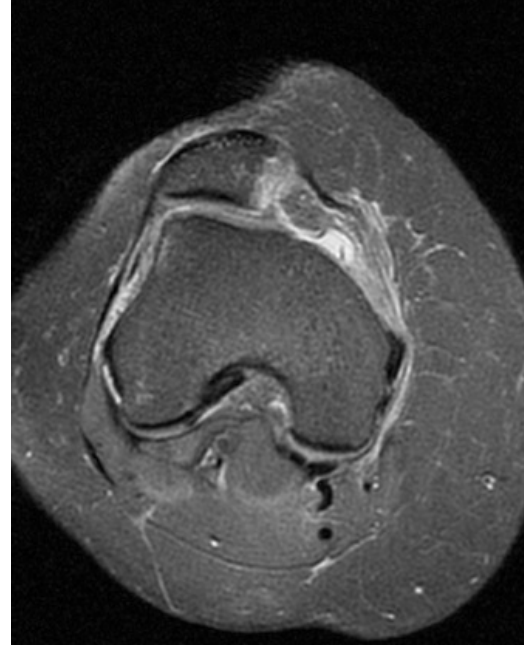
normal anatomy  
no trochlear dysplasia  
no patella alta



Need surgery .....

## « Atraumatic »

- trochlear dysplasia,
- patella alta



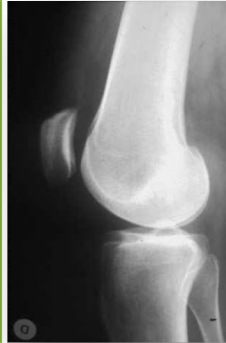
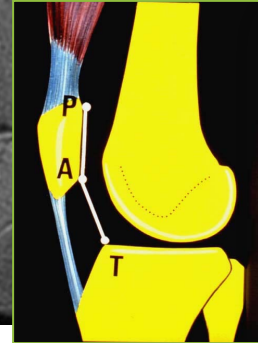
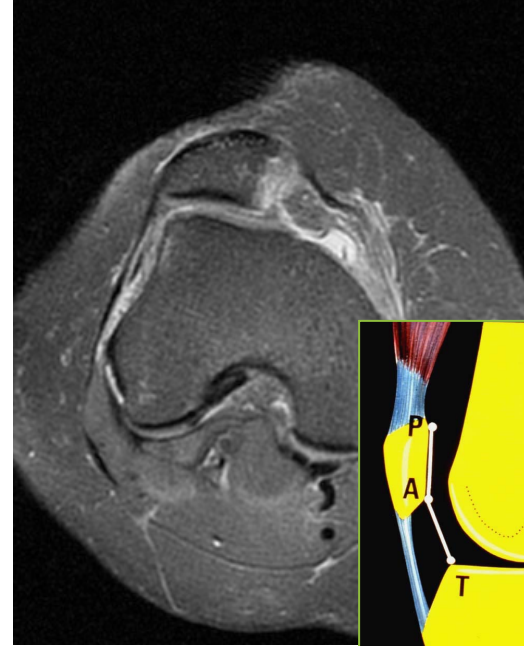
Askenberger M et al  
Morphology and Anatomic Patellar Instability Risk Factors in First-Time Traumatic Lateral Patellar Dislocations.  
Am J Sports Med. 2017

# anatomic patellar instability risk factors (APIFs)

- trochlear dysplasia
- patella alta

And

abnormal lateral patellar tilt ?  
elevated [TT-TG] distance ?

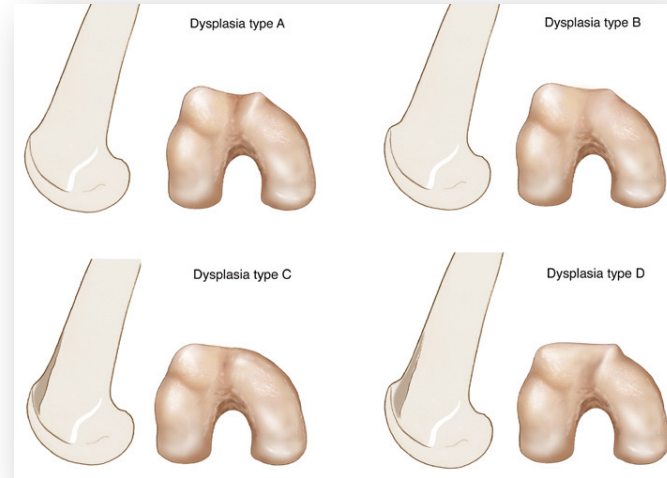


Askenberger M et al  
Morphology and Anatomic Patellar Instability Risk Factors in First-Time Traumatic Lateral Patellar Dislocations.  
Am J Sports Med. 2017



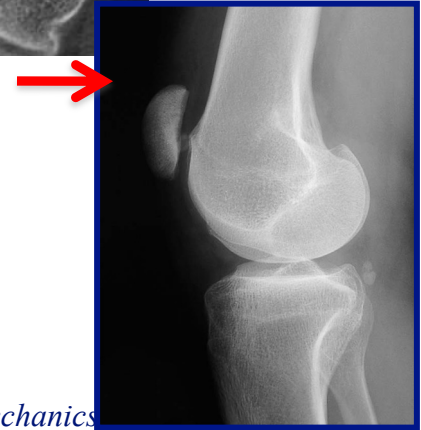
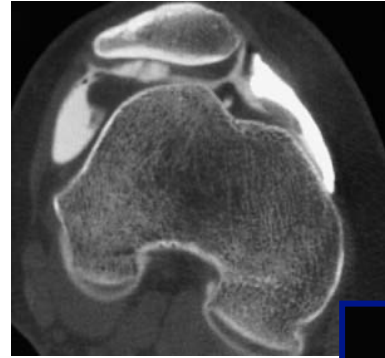
# Etiology of first time dislocation

Trochlear dysplasia  
(Dejour types B and D)



# Etiology

- Trochlear dysplasia  
types B and D showed the largest  
deviations for the patellofemoral  
contact areas and pressures  
Supratrochlear spur +++



*Van Haver A et al, The effect of trochlear dysplasia on patellofemoral biomechanics: a cadaveric study with simulated trochlear deformities. Am J Sports Med. 2015*

# Clinical exam

---

## Acute phase

**Traumatic injury ++**

**Swelling knee**

**Hemarthrosis**

**Knee pain**

**“GENTLE exam” (anxiety)**

**Rule out other diagnosis**

## Post-acute phase

*(days to weeks)*

**Swelling knee**

**Hemarthrosis**

**Knee pain ?**

**Apprehension ?**

**“GENTLE exam”  
(anxiety)**

# Bracing

---



**NO EVIDENCE**

*for both acute or non-acute*

**Do not consider this option**

**OR only in acute phase and short time period**



# Diagnostic

---

J-sign

## Clinical exam

**Knee pain**

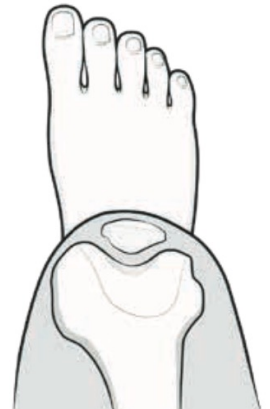
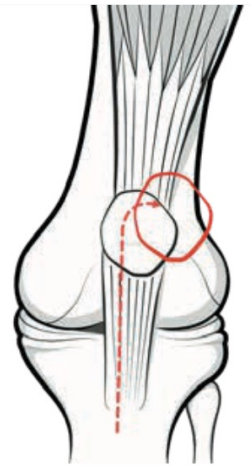
**J-sign**

**Range of Motion**

**Apprehension test (Smillie)**

**Patellar glide test**

**Quadriceps Inhibition?**



# Imageries

---

**X-rays + MRI**

**As soon as possible**



**Evaluate chondral and osteochondral fractures**  
Lipohemarthrosis



**Highlights risk factors of recurrence**

# Risk of recurrence

---

## Main Factors

Trochlear dysplasia  
Patellar height (CDI > 1.4)

## Secondary

High TT-TG  
Excessive femoral anteversion  
Genu recurvatum  
Genu valgum

**100% of patellar dislocation  
are linked to risk factors**

# Diagnosis

---

## X-rays

**Trochlear dysplasia**

**Patellar height**

(Caton Deschamps index)

## MRI

**Trochlear dysplasia**

(Dejour V3 classification)

**Patellar height**

(Modified CDI)

**Patello-trochlear overlap**

(Sagittal Patellar Engagement)

**TT-TG distance**

**Knee rotation**



# How to treat ?

---

**Conservative treatment ++**

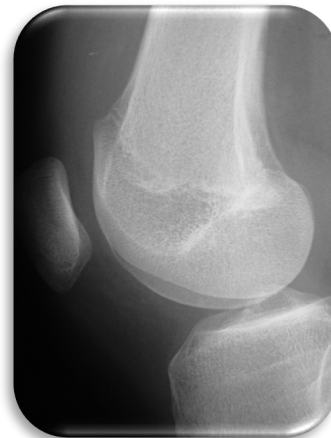
**Evaluate**



**Recurrence Risk**  
**Risk factors**  
**Associated injuries**

# How to treat ?

---



## Recurrence

### Low risk

Low grade dysplasia  
Normal patellar height  
Normal TT-TG distance  
No associated lesions

**Conservative treatment ++**

### High risk

High grade dysplasia  
High patellar height  
High TT-TG distance  
Chondral lesions

**Chondral surgery  
A la carte procedures**

**Immature patient**

**How to treat ?**

**Recurrence**

**Low risk**

**High risk**

- 1) recurrence Risk ?**
- 2) Discussion with the family +++**

**Always high risk of re-dislocation**

**Conservative treatment ++**

**A la carte procedures ++**

**Immature patient**

# How to treat ?

---

**Conservative treatment**

**IS NOT the GOLD STANDARD ANYMORE**

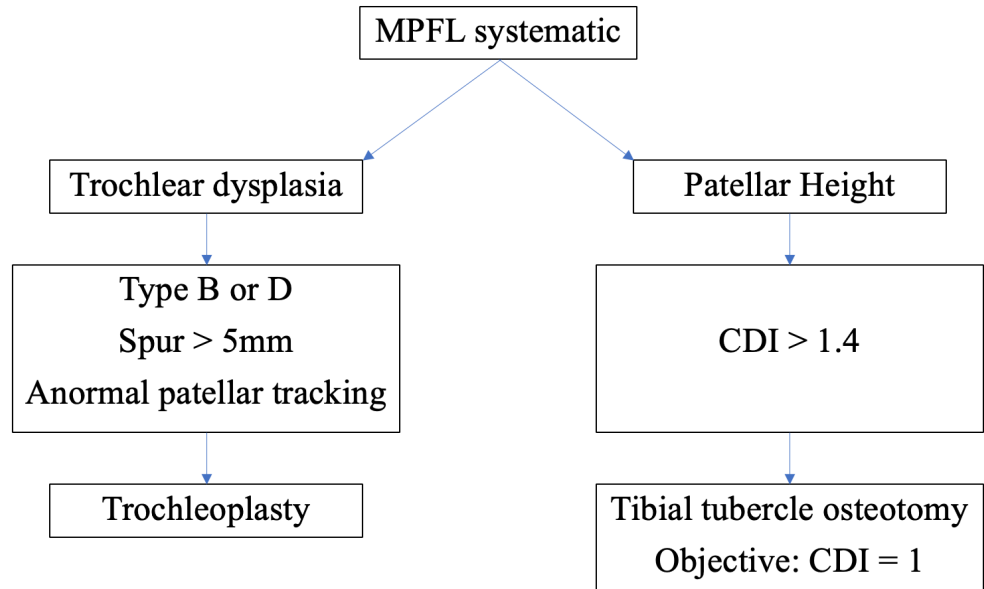
**High risk of recurrence patients by definition**

# Surgery

---

*Depending of recurrence risk factors*  
*Discuss pros and cons*

In case of  
**High risk of recurrence**



# MPFL repair or reconstruction?

---

[Review](#) > [Orthop J Sports Med.](#) 2021 Sep 28;9(9):23259671211026624.

doi: 10.1177/23259671211026624. eCollection 2021 Sep.

## Comparing Nonoperative Treatment, MPFL Repair, and MPFL Reconstruction for Patients With Patellar Dislocation: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis

Zhongcheng Liu<sup>1</sup>, Qiong Yi<sup>1</sup>, Liangzhi He<sup>1</sup>, Changjiang Yao<sup>1</sup>, Lanfang Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Fan Lu<sup>1</sup>, Xiaohui Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Meng Wu<sup>1</sup>, Bin Geng<sup>1</sup>, Yayi Xia<sup>1</sup>, Jin Jiang<sup>1</sup>

> [Orthop J Sports Med.](#) 2024 Jan 8;12(1):23259671231221239. doi: 10.1177/23259671231221239. eCollection 2024 Jan.

## Comparison of Failure Rates at Long-term Follow-up Between MPFL Repair and Reconstruction for Recurrent Lateral Patellar Instability

Bradley M Kruckeberg<sup>1</sup>, Ryan R Wilbur<sup>1</sup>, Bryant M Song<sup>1</sup>, Abhinav Lamba<sup>1</sup>, Christopher L Camp<sup>1</sup>, Daniel B F Saris<sup>1</sup>, Aaron J Krych<sup>1</sup>, Michael J Stuart<sup>1</sup>

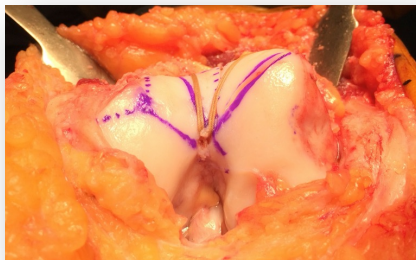
**Reconstruction >>> Repair**

**Lower failure rate (14% vs 41%)  
Higher RTS  
Better outcomes**

# Associated procedures

*Depend on risk factors*

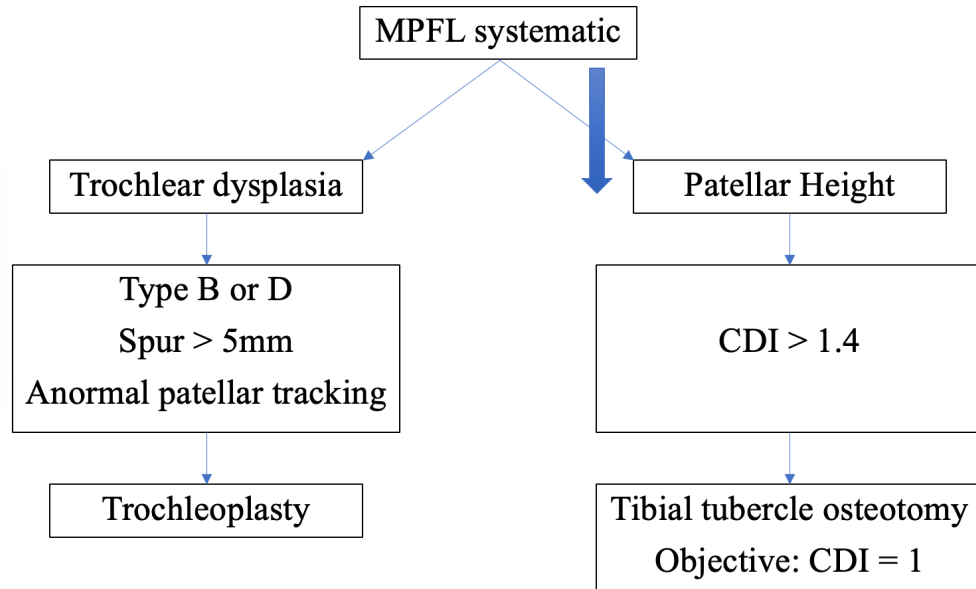
**Menu à la carte**



**How Does Isolated Medial Patellofemoral Ligament Reconstruction Influence Patellar Height?**

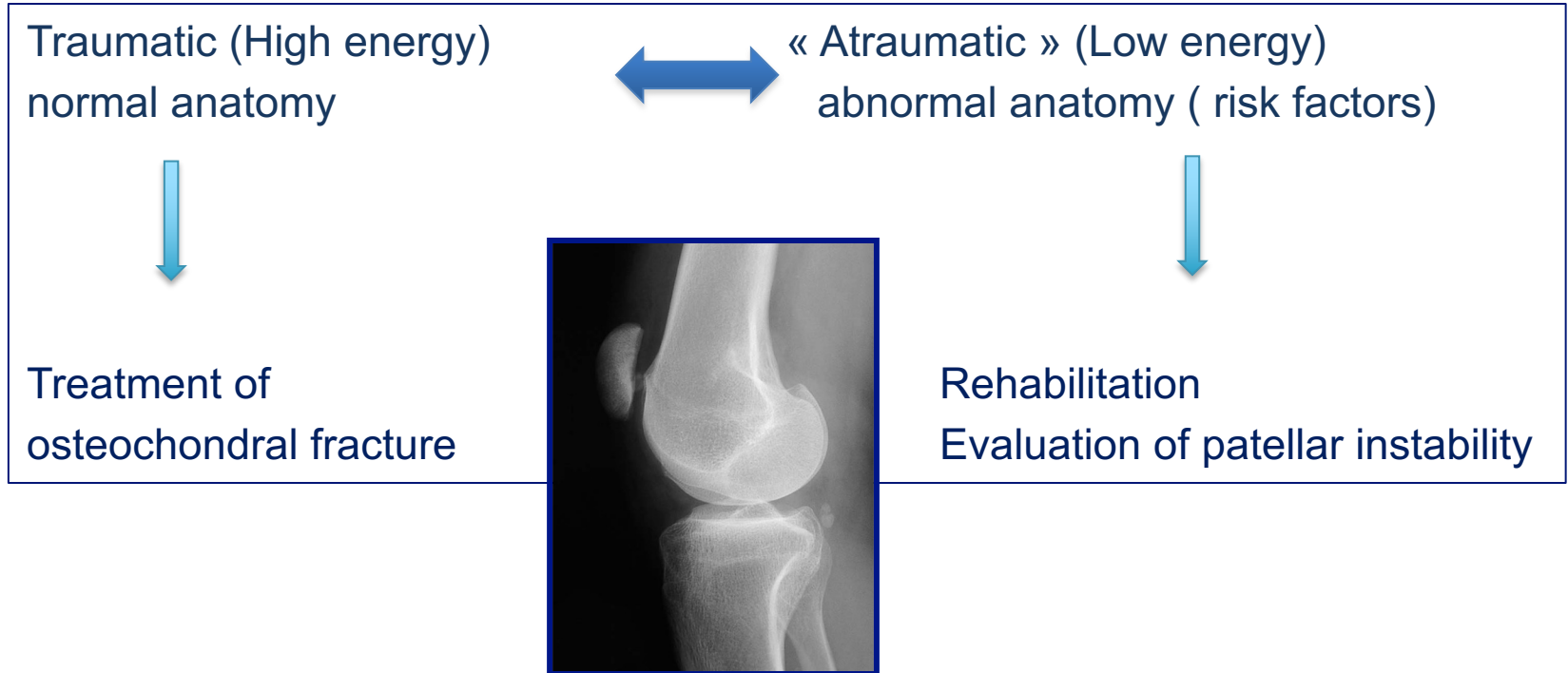
Francesco Luceri,<sup>\*,†‡</sup> MD, Julien Roger,<sup>†</sup> MD, Pietro Simone Randelli,<sup>§||</sup> MD, Prof., Sébastien Lustig,<sup>†¶</sup> MD, PhD, Prof., and Elvire Servien,<sup>†¶</sup> MD, PhD, Prof.  
Investigation performed at the FIFA Medical Center of Excellence,  
Orthopaedics Surgery and Sports Medicine Department, Croix Rousse Hospital,  
Lyon, France

The American Journal of Sports Medicine  
1–6  
DOI: 10.1177/0363546520902132  
© 2020 The Author(s)



# Management of first time patellar dislocation

## Take home message





# « acute » surgery?

---

1 reason

**Chondral or osteochondral lesion**

***Refixation or repair > than fragment removal***

*Especially immature skeletal*

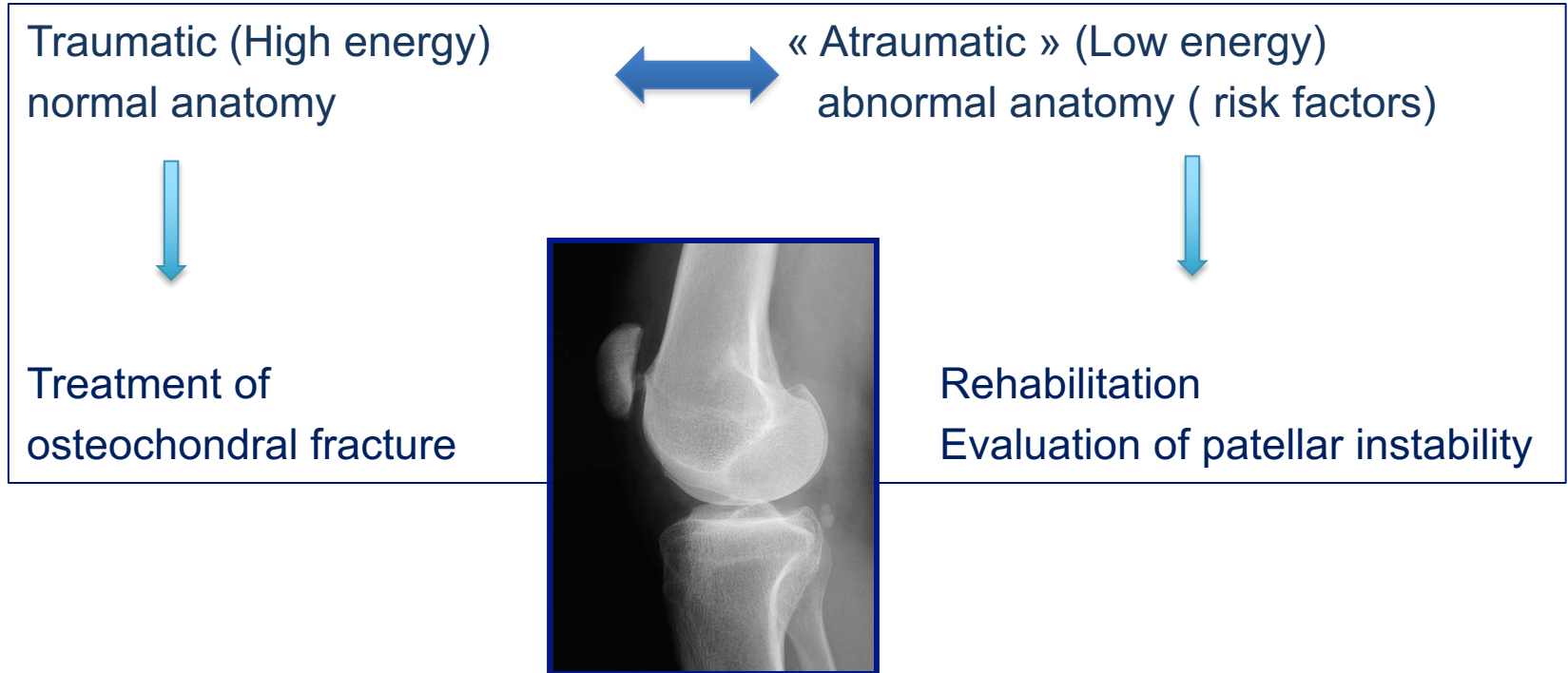
**Full imageries needed**

**Recurrence investigation needed**

**Add concomitant procedures if needed : “menu a la carte”**

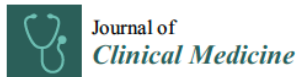
# Management of first time patellar dislocation

## Take home message



# Management of first time patellar dislocation

## Take home message



Systematic Review

### To Operate or Not? Evaluating the Best Approach for First-Time Patellar Dislocations: A Review


Roberto Tedeschi <sup>1,\*</sup>, Daniela Platano <sup>1,2</sup>, Federica Giorgi <sup>3</sup> and Danilo Donati <sup>4,5</sup>

[Home](#) > [Knee Surgery, Sports Traumatology, Arthroscopy](#) > [Article](#)

### Management of the first episode of traumatic patellar dislocation: an international survey

Knee | Published: 07 December 2022

Volume 31, pages 2257–2265, (2023) [Cite this article](#)

Riccardo D'Ambrosi , Filippo Migliorini, Simone Cerciello, Germano Guerra, Katia Corona, Laura Mangiavini, Nicola Ursino, Josip Vlaisć & Mislav Jelic

The decision between surgical and conservative management should be **individualized**,  
taking into account **patient-specific factors** and **potential risks**

**HCL**  
HOSPICES CIVILS  
DE LYON





# Thank you

*[elvire.servien@chu-lyon.fr](mailto:elvire.servien@chu-lyon.fr)*

**HCL**  
HOSPICES CIVILS  
DE LYON

