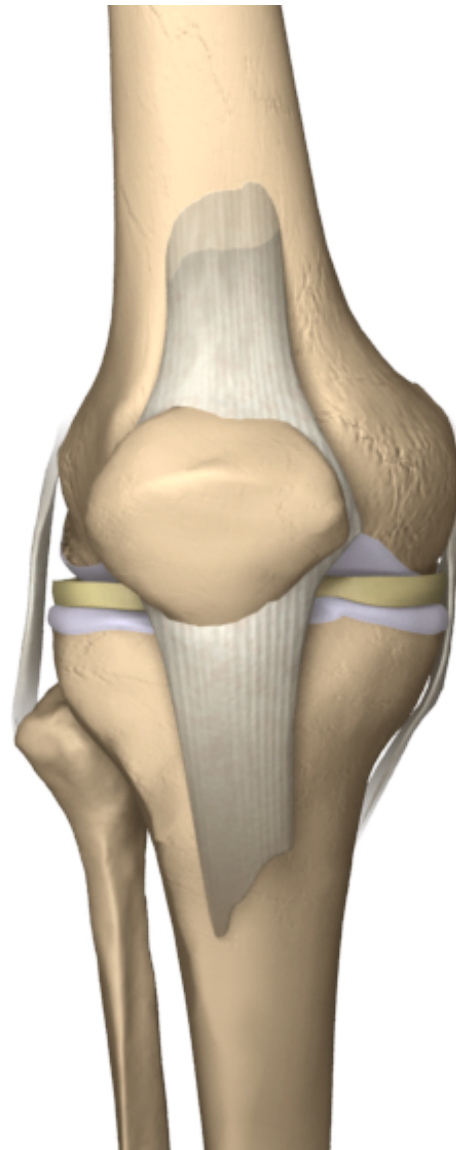


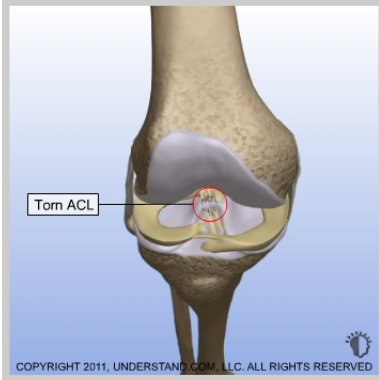
Torn ACL - Allograft Graft

The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is one of four ligaments that are crucial to the stability of your knee. It is a strong fibrous tissue that connects the femur to the tibia.

A partial or complete tear of your ACL will cause your knee to become less stable and feel as though your knee is about to give out.

There are a number of different graft options to replace your torn ACL. Your surgeon will select the option that is best for you.





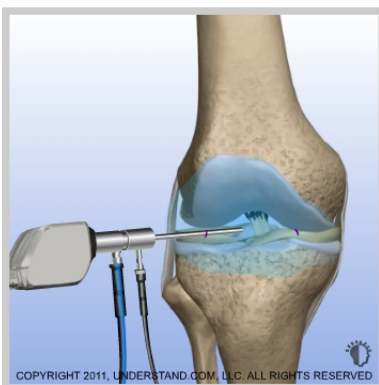
Torn ACL Reconstruction Introduction

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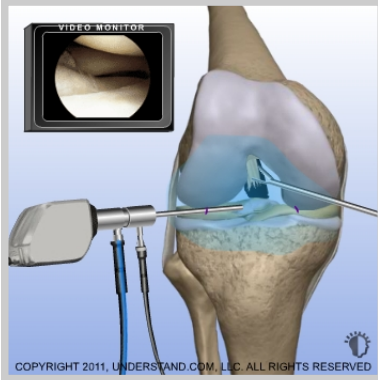
Incisions

Small incisions (portals) are made around the joint. The scope and surgical instruments will go into these incisions.



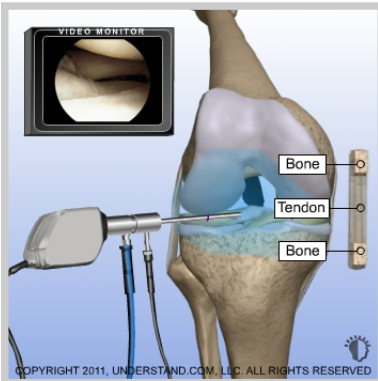
Visualization

The scope is inserted into the knee. Saline solution flows through a tube (cannula) and into the knee to expand the joint and to improve visualization. The image is sent to a video monitor where the surgeon can see inside the joint.



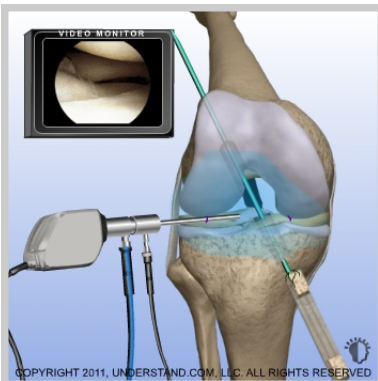
ACL Removal

A surgical instrument is inserted into the joint and the torn ACL is removed.



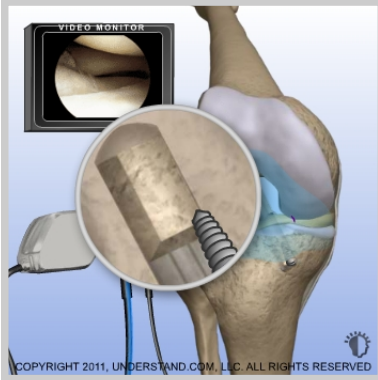
Graft Preparation

Allograft tissue is harvested from a donor. Some allografts contain bone plugs at each end (patellar tendon allografts), while others are comprised entirely of soft tissue (tibialis tendon and hamstring tendon allografts). The physician will determine the type to use, and allograft tissue with bone plugs will be shown here. Special tissue processing is used to clean and prepare the new ACL graft. The new graft will consist of tendon with plugs of bone attached to each end. These plugs of bone will help anchor what will become your new ACL.



Graft Insertion

A guide wire is inserted through the tibia and femur to help accurately drill tunnels. A surgical drill is inserted over the guide wire and a new tunnel in the femur and tibia is created for your new ACL Graft. The end of the graft is tied to a loop on the guide wire and the graft is pulled into place.



Securing the Graft

Screws are used to secure the plugs of bone into the tunnels. Over time, the plugs of bone will incorporate into the surrounding bone.



End of Procedure

With the new ACL in position and secured, the surgical instruments are removed and the procedure is completed.