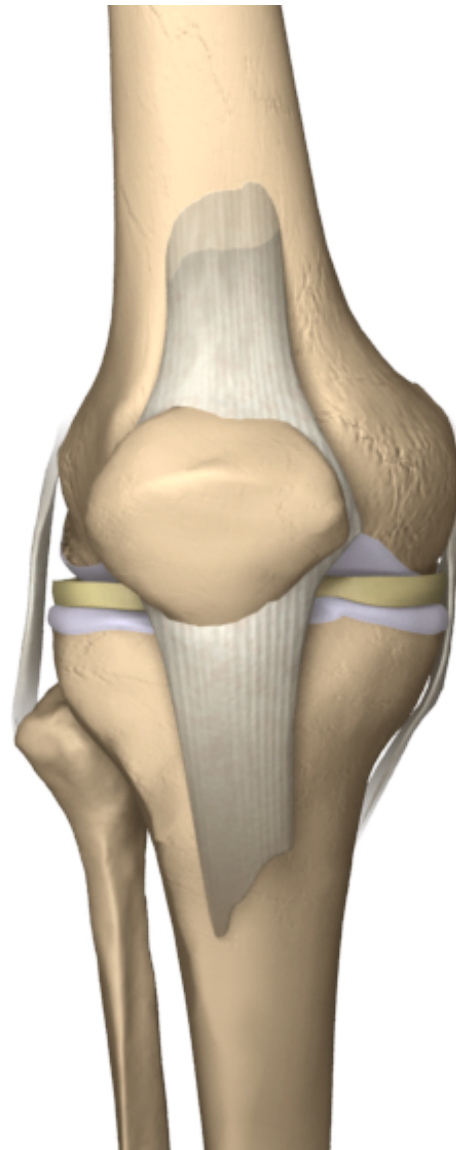


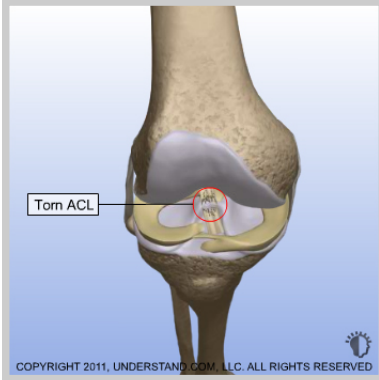
Torn ACL - Hamstring Graft

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.





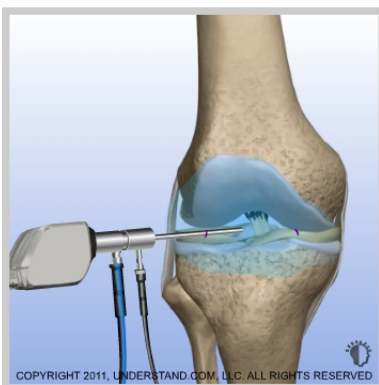
Hamstring Graft Introduction

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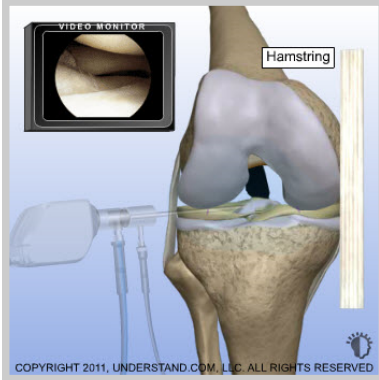
Incisions

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



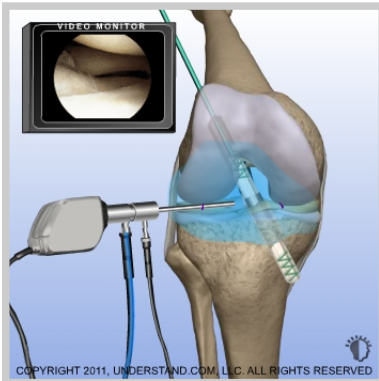
Visualization

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.



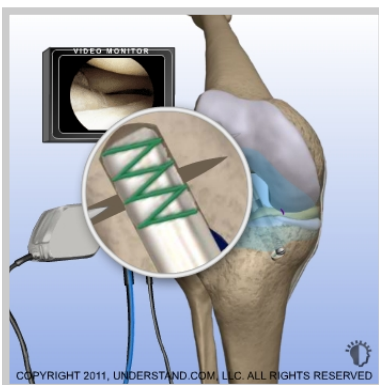
ACL Removal and Hamstring Modification

A surgical instrument is inserted into the joint and the torn ACL is removed. A portion of the hamstring is removed using a specially designed surgical instrument.



Graft Preparation and Insertion

The hamstring graft will be folded over to increase strength. Both ends will be sutured to facilitate passage through the tunnels and into position. 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

There are a number of devices available to fixate the graft into place. They range from staples, post and washers, and button-like devices. Your surgeon will decide which is best for you. In this example a cross pin is used to secure the graft. Over time the tunnels will fill in with new bone.



End of Procedure

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