

3d advanced course on knee surgery  
Val d'Isère 2010

## Focus on knee rotation.




R. Seil

Centre de l'Appareil Locomoteur, de Médecine du Sport et de Prévention  
Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg – Clinique d'Eich

## Definition


**Anatomy:**

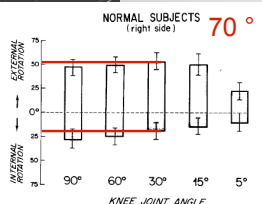
- Which structures are responsible for knee rotation ?

**Quantification:**

- Are we able to quantify knee rotation ?
- How big is knee rotation ?
- How variable is knee rotation under physiologic and pathologic conditions ?
- Are we able to restore it after injury ?

## Rotational laxity



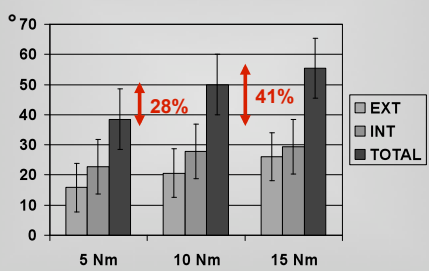


NORMAL SUBJECTS  
(right side) **70°**

- Complex setting
- Low side-to-side variability
- High inter-subject variability
- Total rotation (int. + ext.) most reliable
- Definition of starting point difficult
- Force couple ?

Zarins B 1984

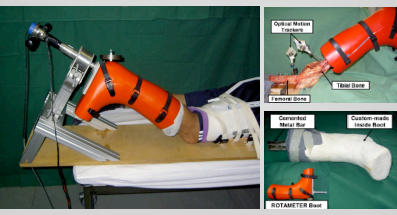
## Physiologic rotation (30 ° flexion)



Torque (Nm)	EXT (°)	INT (°)	TOTAL (°)
5 Nm	~15	~22	~37
10 Nm	~20	~28	~48
15 Nm	~25	~30	~55


Lorbach O, AJSM, accepted for publication

## Physiologic rotation (30 ° flexion)



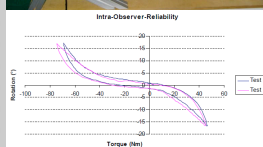
Lorbach O, AJSM, accepted for publication

## Rotational laxity

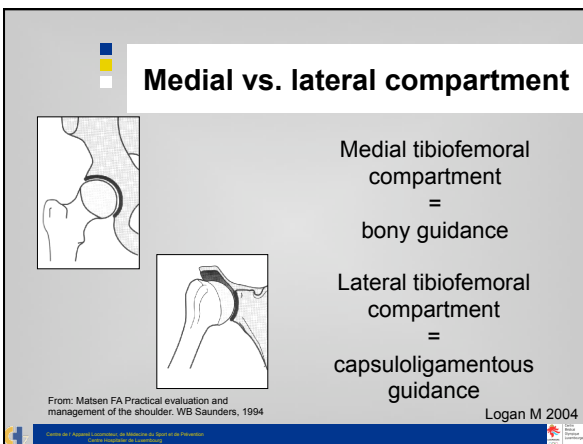
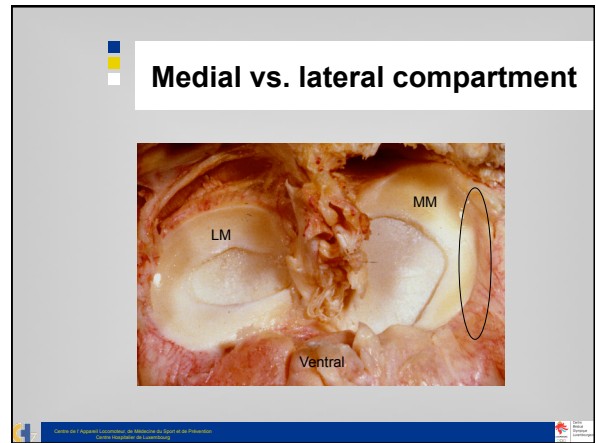
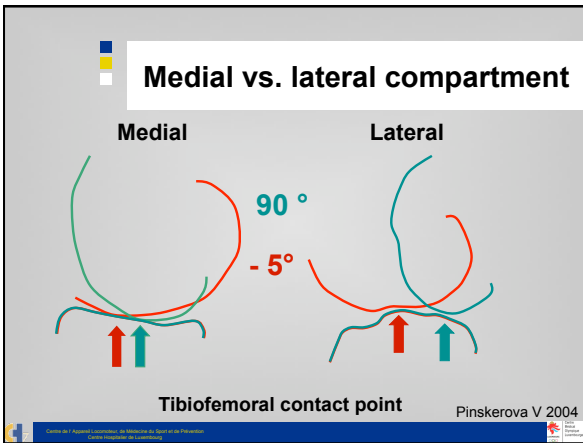
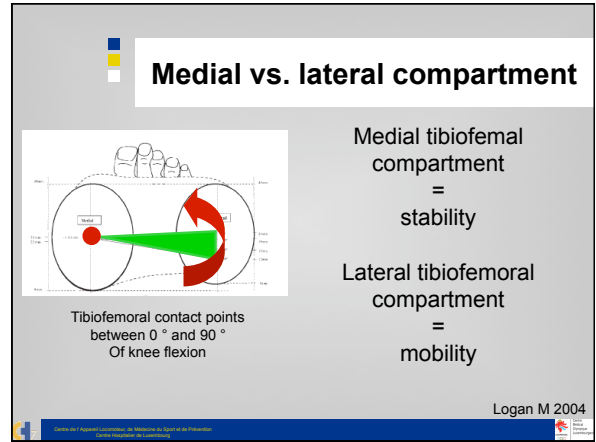
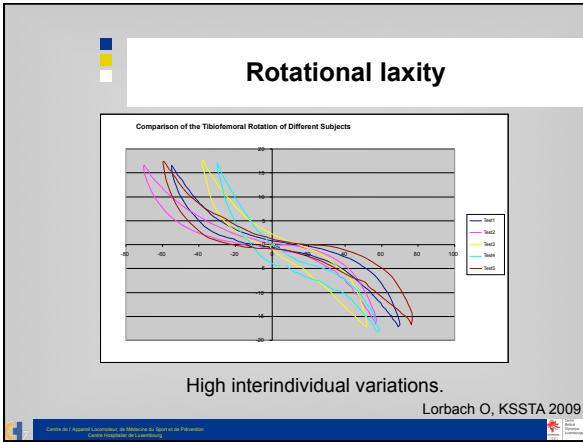


Low inter and intraobserver Variability

Low side-to-side variability



Lorbach O, KSSTA 2009



### Medial vs. lateral compartment

CONCLUSION:

Static stability  
+  
Dynamic stability

↓

Rotation occurs in the lateral compartment

### The „central pivot“ ACL injury

• Tibiofemoral contact points:  
 Medial: unchanged  
 Lateral: more dorsal

• ↑ ventral translation and internal rotation of the tibia under the femur.

Logan M 2004

### The „central pivot“ ACL injury

TRANSLATION (mm)

POST. ↑

ANT. ↓

30 60 90

FLEXION

ACL intact

ACL tear

Potel JF, ESSKA 2008

### The „central pivot“ ACL injury

### The „central pivot“ ACL injury

■ Intact □ AM def □ PL def □ Complete ACL def

Anterior tibial translation (mm)

Knee flexion (degree)

0 30

Valgus: 10 Nm  
 Internal rotation: 4 Nm

Between 0 and 30 ° of flexion PL bundle is main stabilizer against internal rotation and anterior tibial translation.

Zantop T 2007

### The „central pivot“ ACL injury

□ Intact ■ ACL deficiency □ single bundle

Internal tibial rotation (degree)

Knee flexion [degree]

0 30 60 90

Valgus: 10 Nm  
 Internal rotation: 4 Nm

ACL deficiency does not increase the internal tibial rotation under a simulated pivot shift test.

Diermann N 2009

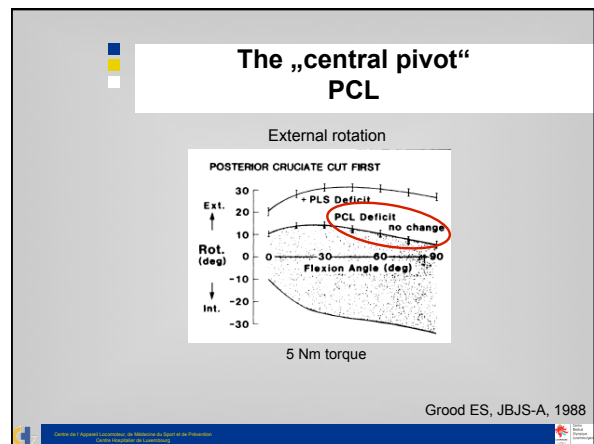
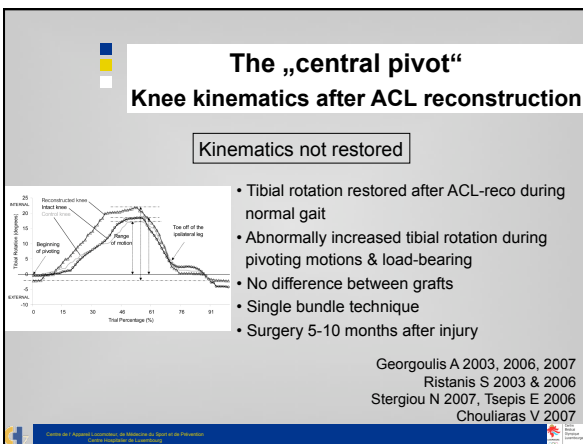
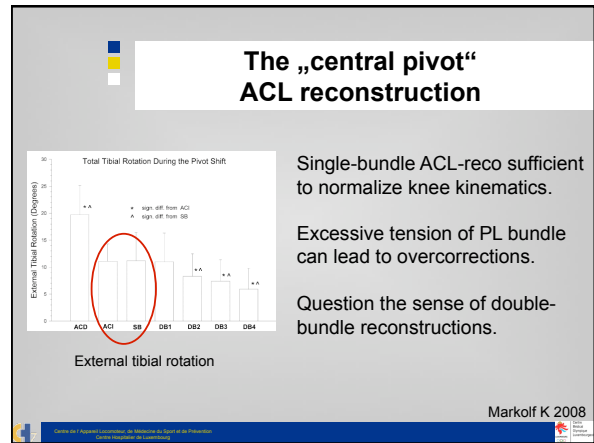
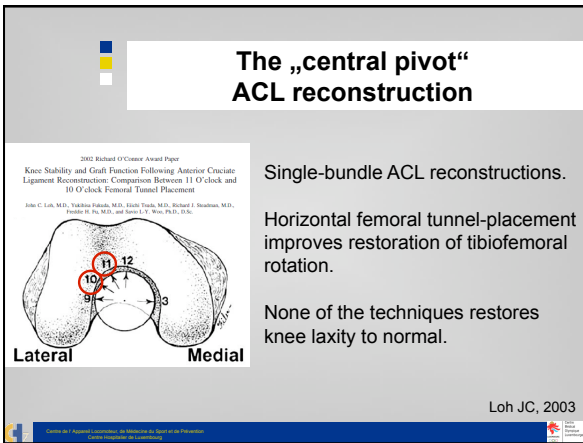
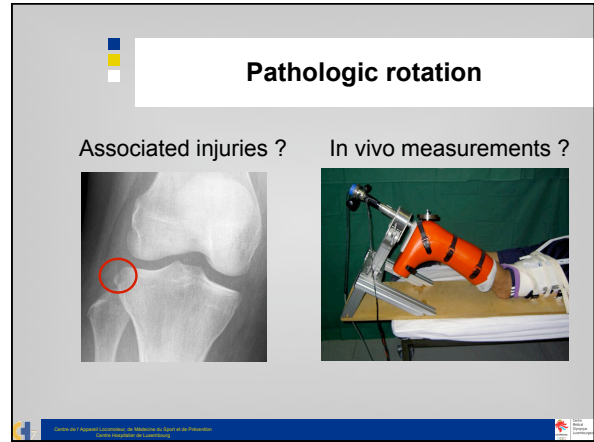
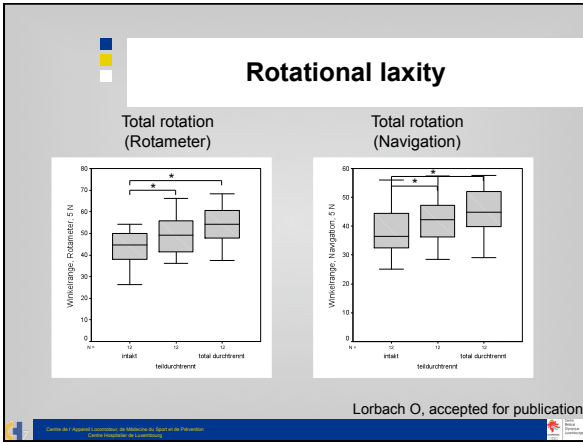
### Pathologic rotation (30 ° flexion)

Intact PL res All res

5 Nm torque

↓ 10% ↓ 15%

Lorbach O, AJSM, accepted for publication



### The „central pivot“ PCL

The isolated rupture of the posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) is in many cases symptom free, as it only results in posterior translation of tibia and no rotational instability.

Krogsgaard M, 2007

### Posterolateral structures

3 main static posterolateral stabilisers

- PF Ligament
- Popliteus tendon
- LCL

Popliteus muscle

Biceps tendon

Courtesy of M. Kuster, St.Gallen

### Posterolateral structures

**Popliteofibular ligament:**  
Loose in internal rotation  
Tight in external rotation

From: Ulrich K, 2002

### Anatomy & biomechanics Isolated PLS lesion

External rotation

POSTEROLATERAL STRUCTURES CUT FIRST

13 (5)° at 30° knee flexion (33 % increase)

Grood ES, JBJS-A, 1988

### PLS: clinical evaluation Dial test

30° 90°

5° gr. I  
10° gr. II  
15° gr. III

Cooper DE, JBJS-A, 1991

### PLS: Stress x-rays Radiologic dial test

20°

30° knee flexion

D (mm)	
N	2,1
PCL	3,9
PLS	17,0*

Chang CB, JBJS-A 2007

### The periphery Posteromedial structures

**Posterior oblique ligament**

Courtesy of L. Engebretsen, Oslo

Courtesy of L. Engebretsen, Oslo

### The periphery Posteromedial structures

Tight in extension  
Loose in flexion

From: Wymenga A. Knee Anatomy for Orthopedic Surgeons - ESSKA, 2004

### The periphery Posteromedial structures

134 N Posterior Directed Force

PTL in mm

Degree of Flexion

PCL  
PCL + sMCL  
PCL + dMCL  
PCL + POL  
PCL + PMCL  
Intact

POL injury doubles posterior laxity if associated with PCL tear.

Repair becomes necessary with combined postero-posteromedial injuries.

Rotation ?

Petersen W, 2008

### Summary

Rotational laxity assessment:

- better characterization of individual knees / injuries
- role of specific knee structures
- improved treatment evaluation ?

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