

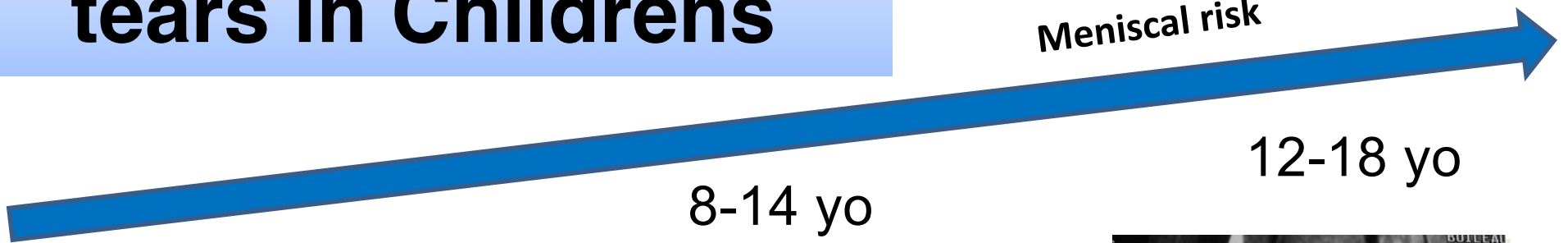
# ACL-R : special case Young population (*children , adolescent*)

Auteurs : **Dr Nicolas GRAVELEAU & Dr Nicolas BOUGUENNEC**  
*Bordeaux-Mérignac*

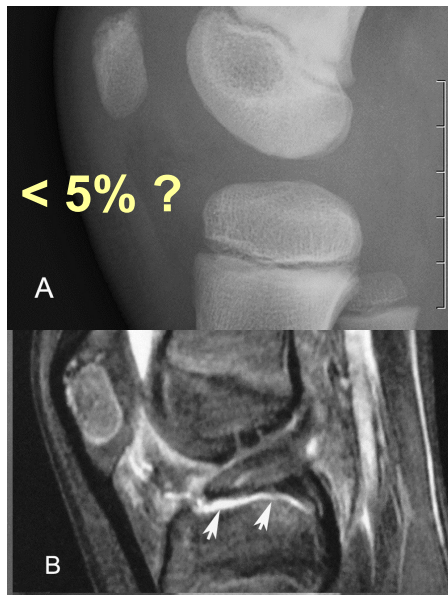
*And SFA*

# Epidemiology of ACL tears in Childrens

Meniscal risk

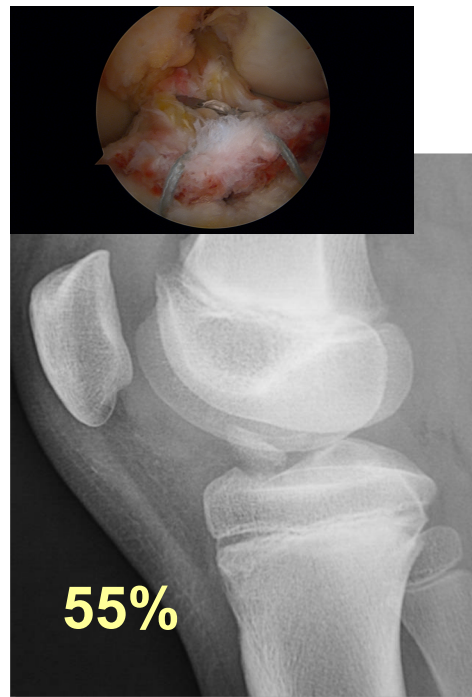


< 8 yo



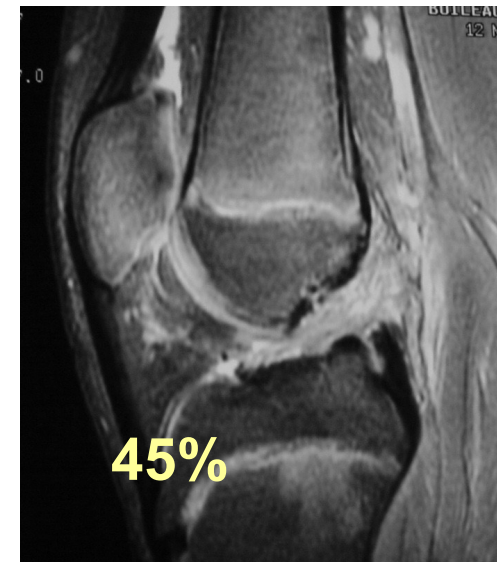
Tibial spine Fracture  
Cartilage avulsion

8-14 yo



Tibial spine fracture  
Bony lesion

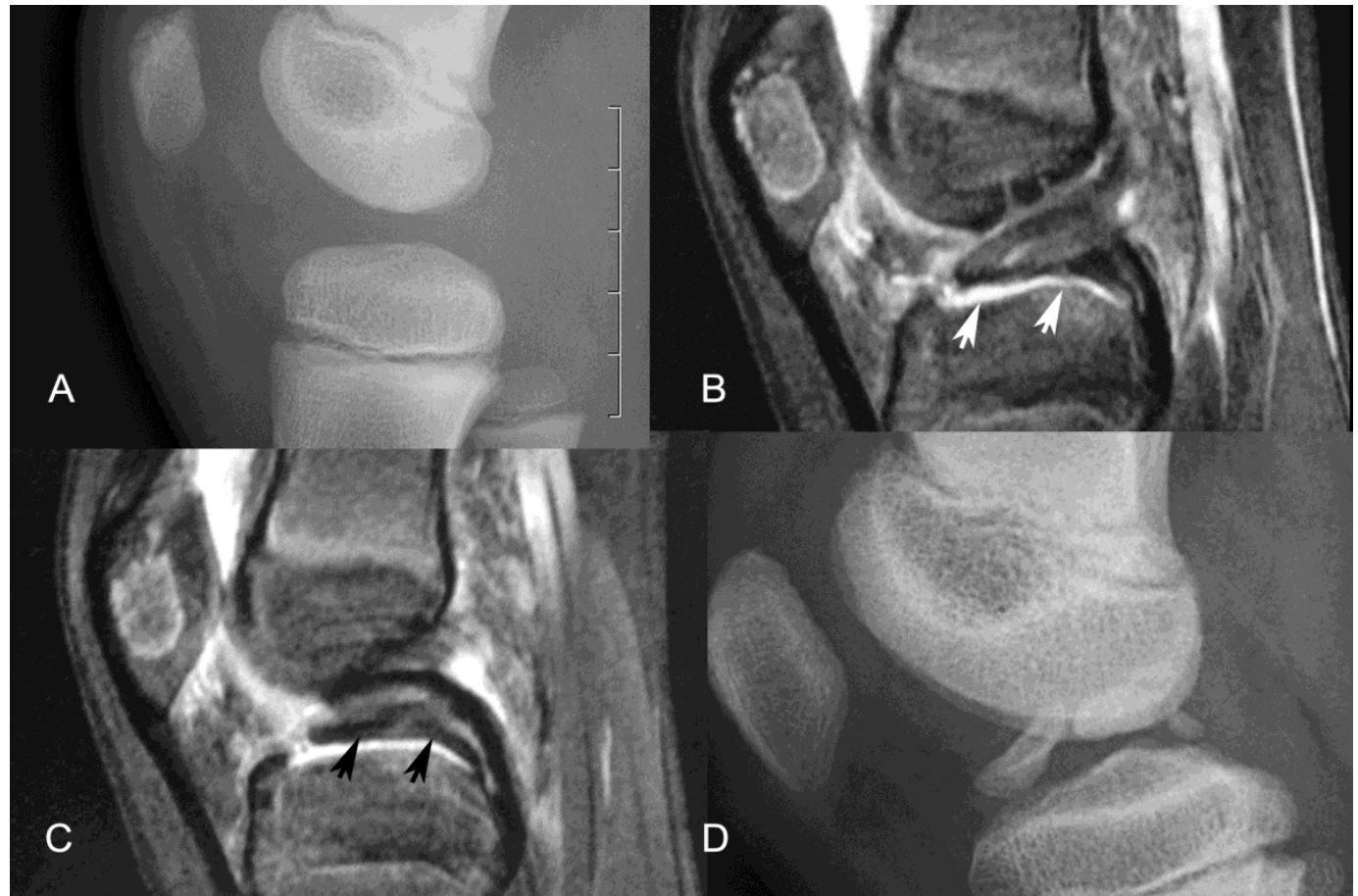
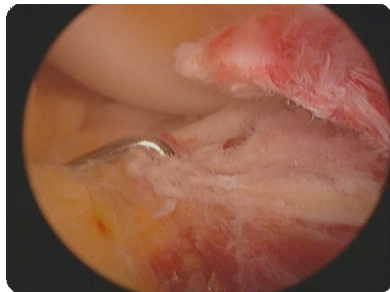
12-18 yo



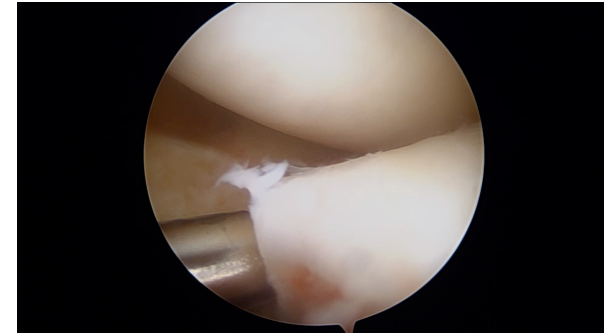
Ligament tears

# Tibial cartilage avulsion ACL

- ◆ Ski injury
- ◆ MRI :  
Epiphyseal  
HYPERsignal  
Double PCL



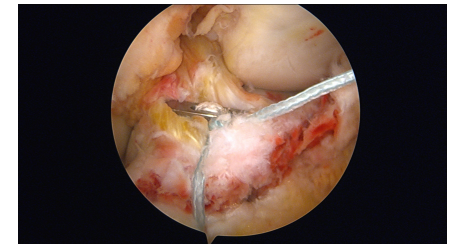
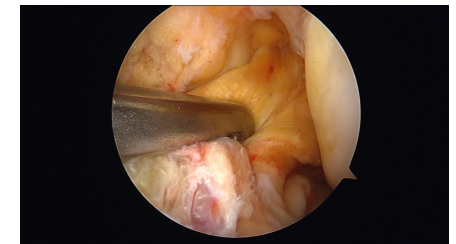
# Tibial Spine fractures



**3 à 6 % ?**

**NO associated meniscal tears**

BUT under evaluated at the time of surgery +++

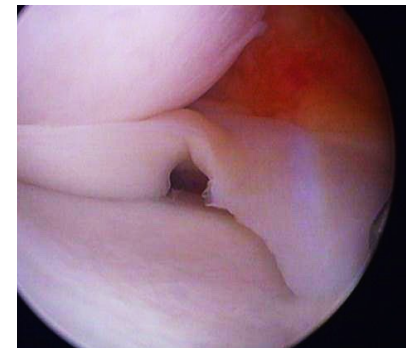


Linked with age and amount of energy in the trauma mechanism

MRI : **40 % ?**

Medial AND lateral

Adolescents



*Shea JPO 2011*

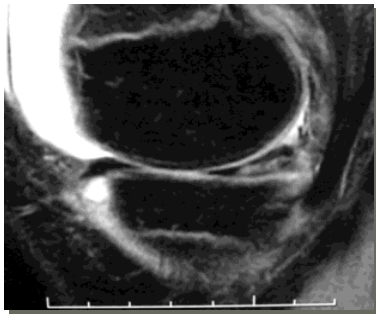
*Kocher Am J Sport Med 2003*

*Ishibashi Clin Orthop Res 2007*

# Acute ACL tears in the ligament

Acute phase

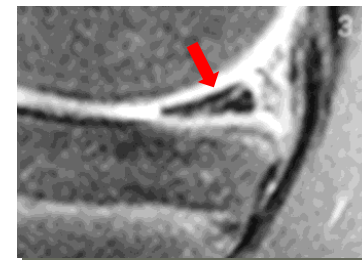
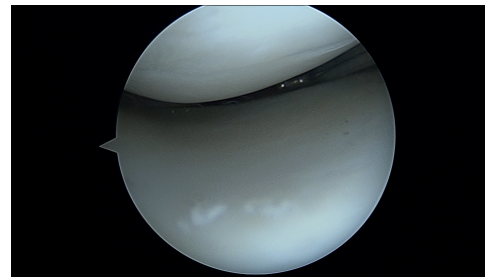
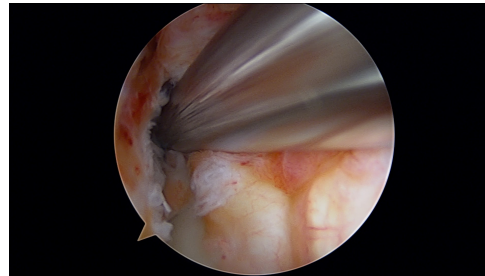
MRI : associated lesions ?



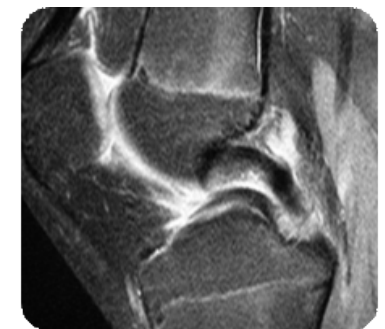
**False positive of Medial meniscal lesion**

Intra meniscal

Vascular hypersignal



Morphologique anomalie or linear hypersignal to the surface of the meniscus ?



**50% OF ACL tears in children / adolescent have an associated meniscal lesion!**

# Two different situations

Isolated ACL tear  
(stable knee)

WAIT

Is it reliable in term on  
healing ?

Which lesion has the  
potential to heal ?

Lateral meniscus  $\neq$  medial M.

Unstable meniscal tear(s) + ACL  
insufficiency  
(unstable knee)

STABILIZE the KNEE

Long term result on unstable knee is well  
known

ACL reconstruction should be efficient

Lateral meniscus  $\neq$  medial M. ?

# CONTROVERSY in pediatric

**Initial management : NON operative versus operative**

## **Operative management**

- Technique
  - Nontransphyseal
  - Partial transphyseal
  - Transphyseal
- Graft choice / fixation
- Age / skeletal maturity

## **COMPLICATIONS**

- ***Growth disturbance***



# Chronic ACL tear

Conservative treatment can lead to early arthritis

*Patients followed by ... surgeons*

- No ability to resume sport
- Pain
- **Instability**
- **Meniscal lesions**
- **Early arthritis**

ACL deficient knee

Instability

Meniscal lesions

Early arthritis





# Delayed surgery at the end of growth

↗↗ rate of MENISCAL lesion and subsequent MENISECTOMY  
(compare to early reconstruction)

Henry, Chotel KSSTA 2009

Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc (2009) 17:748–755  
DOI 10.1007/s00167-009-0741-0

KNEE

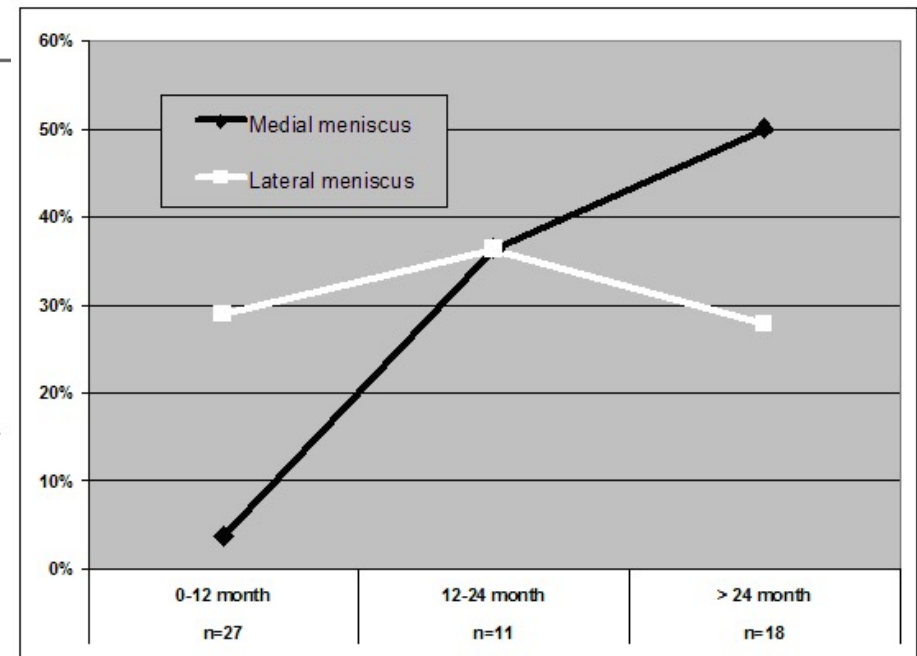
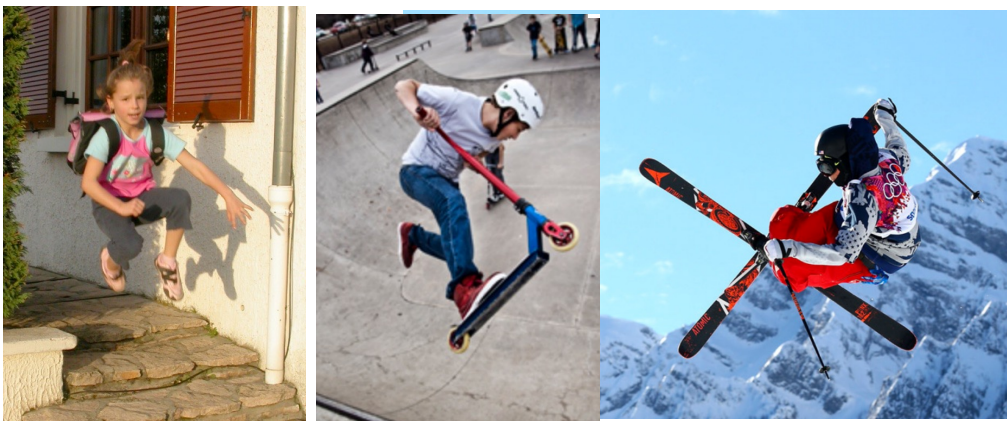
## Rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament in children: early reconstruction with open physes or delayed reconstruction to skeletal maturity?

Julien Henry · Franck Chotel · Julien Chouteau · Michel Henri Fessy · Jérôme Bérard · Bernard Moyen

Received: 9 October 2008 / Accepted: 28 January 2009 / Published online: 28 February 2009  
© Springer-Verlag 2009

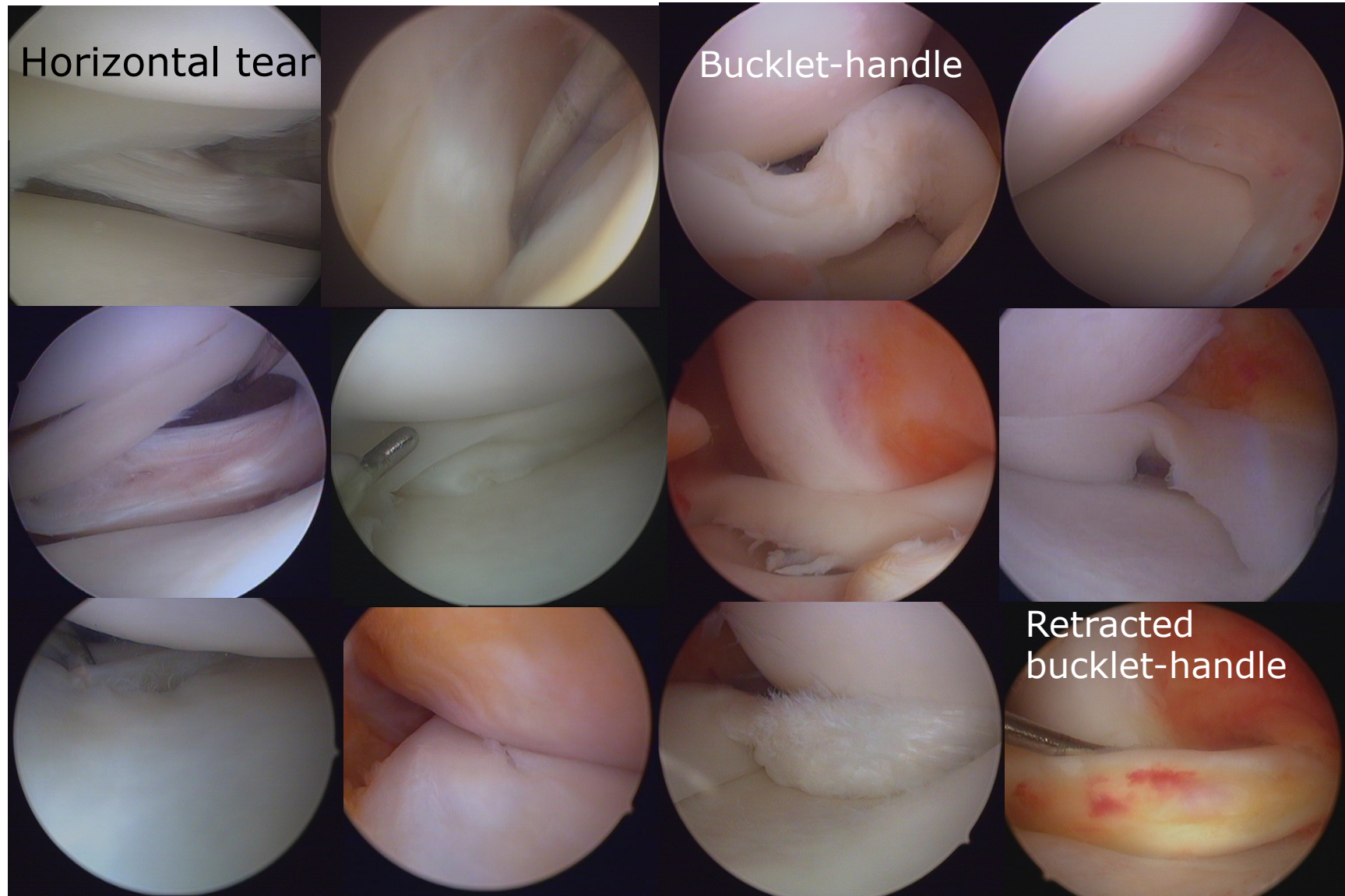
**Abstract** The purpose of this study was to compare two different strategies of management for ACL rupture in skeletally immature patient. In group I, patients were

**Keywords** Anterior cruciate ligament · Meniscus · Children · Adolescent · Surgery · Skeletally immature · Delayed · Reconstruction



At « RISK » for the menisci

# Potentially at risk for the meniscus



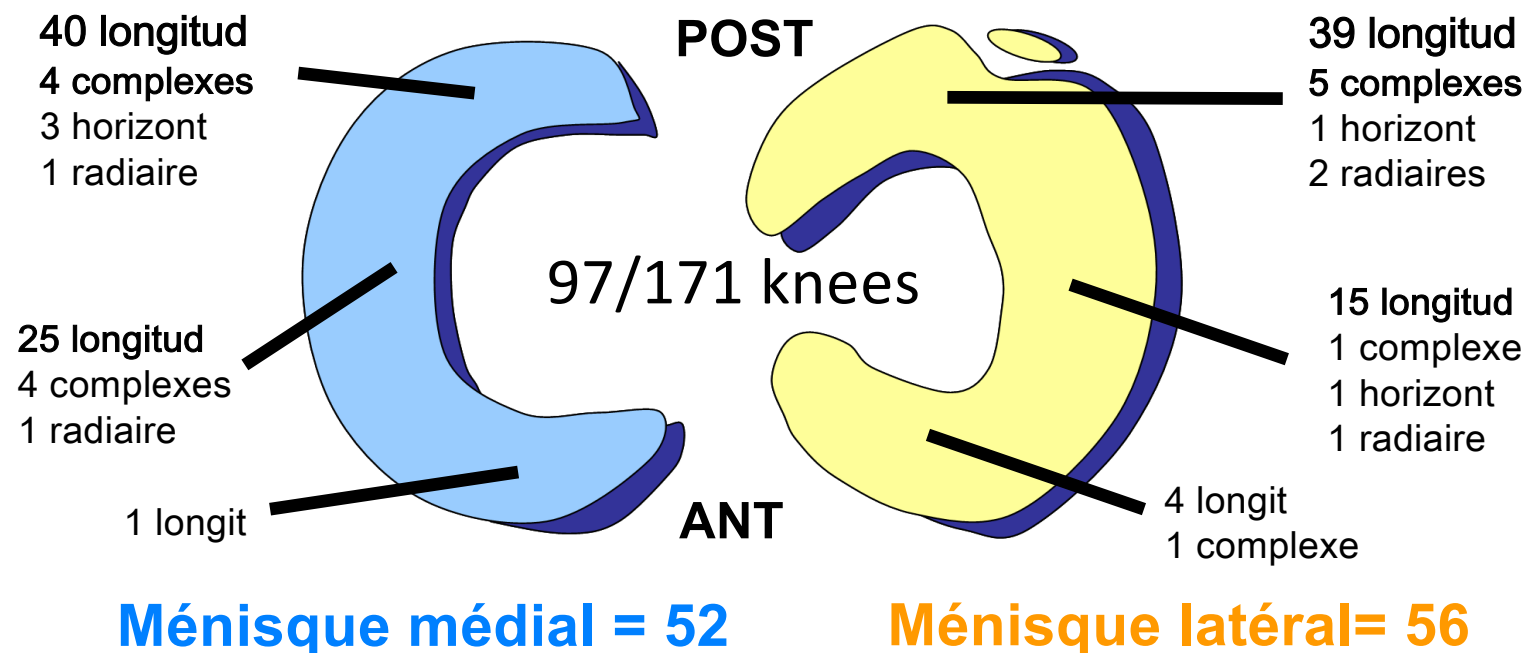
menisco-capsular lesions

# Meniscal lesions in ACL deficient knees

- Open physis : 46 % of meniscal tears
- Closed physis : 66 % of meniscal tears

*Significative différence*

ADOLESCENTS are more likely to have associated meniscal lesion compare to CHILDREN (bony immaturity)



# Meniscal lesions in ACL deficient knees

Do conservative treatment increase the risk of subsequent meniscal lesion ?

**Prevalence and incidence of new meniscus and cartilage injuries after nonoperative treatment algorithm for ACL tears in skeletally immature children.**

- 41 patients
- Average age 11 +/-1,4
- 65% ♂, 88% pivot-contact
- Delai between trauma & FU **3,8 years** +/-1,4.
- **28 CONSERVATIVE treatment** : 28,5% initial meniscal lesions **3,6% « new » tears**
- 13 SURGICAL treatment at 13,2 y.o., intervalle / trauma de 1,6 years

prévalence of meniscal tears : 46,2%

incidence « new » tears : **19,5%**

# Type of surgical treatment

## Reconstruction of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament in the Skeletally Immature Athlete: A Review of Current Concepts

AAOS Exhibit Selection

Peter D. Fabricant, MD, Kristofer J. Jones, MD, Demetris Delos, MD, Frank A. Cordasco, MD, MS, Robert G. Marx, MD, MSc, Andrew D. Pearle, MD, Russell E. Warren, MD, and Daniel W. Green, MD, MS

TABLE IV Review of the Literature on Surgical Outcomes Following Pediatric ACL Reconstruction: Study Demographics and Complications\*

	First Author	No. of Patients	Mean Age (yr)	Mean Follow-up (mo)	Graft	Recurrent Instability	Reinjury
All-epiphyseal (physeal-sparing)	Anderson <sup>44</sup> , 2003	12	13.3	49.2	Hamstring	NR	NR
	Guzzanti <sup>49</sup> , 2003	8	11.2	69.2	Hamstring	NR	NR
	Hui <sup>36</sup> , 2012	16	12	24.0	Hamstring auto./allo.	NR	NR
Extraphyseal (physeal-sparing)	Parker <sup>55</sup> , 1994	6	13.3	33.2	Hamstring	NR	NR
	Nakhostine <sup>54</sup> , 1995	5	14.0	52.8	Fascia lata	NR	None
	Kocher <sup>33</sup> , 2005	44	10.3	63.6	ITB	NR	NR
Partial transphyseal	Bonnard <sup>47</sup> , 2011	56	12.2	66.0	BTB	NR	5.4%
	Andrews <sup>45</sup> , 1994	8	13.5	58.0	FL/Achilles allo.	None	NR
	Lo <sup>52</sup> , 1997	5	12.9	88.8	Hamstring/quad.	None	NR
Transphyseal	Lipscomb <sup>51</sup> , 1986	24	15.0	35.0	Hamstring	None	NR
	Aronowitz <sup>46</sup> , 2000	15	14.0	25.0	Achilles allo.	NR	NR
	McIntosh <sup>53</sup> , 2006	16	13.5	41.1	Hamstring	NR	12.5%
	Kocher <sup>56</sup> , 2007	59	14.7	43.2	Hamstring	NR	NR
	Liddle <sup>50</sup> , 2008	17	12.0	44.0	Hamstring	NR	5.9%
	Cohen <sup>35</sup> , 2009	26	13.3	45.0	Hamstring	NR	6.7%
	Courvoisier <sup>48</sup> , 2011	37	14.0	36.0 (median)	Hamstring	NR	8.1%

$N_{max} = 56$

Fabricant JBJS(Am) 2013

\*LLD = limb-length discrepancy, NR = not reported, ITB = iliotibial band, BTB = bone-tendon-bone, and FL = fascia lata.

# What is the best surgical treatment ?

## EXTRA ARTICULAR

*Dahlstedt 1988*  
*McCarroll 1988*  
*Lazzarone 1990*  
*Graf 1992*  
*Nakhostine 1995*

## PHYSEAL SPARING

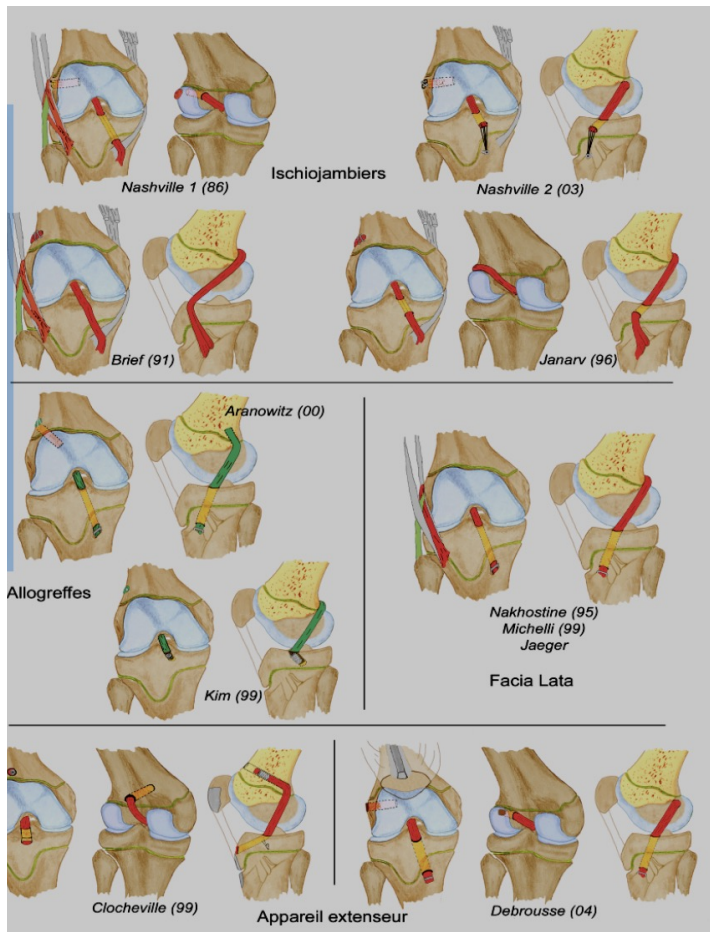
*DeLee 1983*  
*Brief 1991*  
*Janarv 1996*  
*Micheli 1999*  
*Anderson 2004*  
*Guzzanti 2004*

## PARTIAL TRANSPHYSEAL

*Liscomb 1986*  
*Andrews 1994*  
*Lo 1997*  
*Bisson 1998*

## FULL TRANSPHYSEAL

*Liscomb 1986*  
*McCarroll 1988*  
*Matavan 1997*  
*Aronowitz 2000*

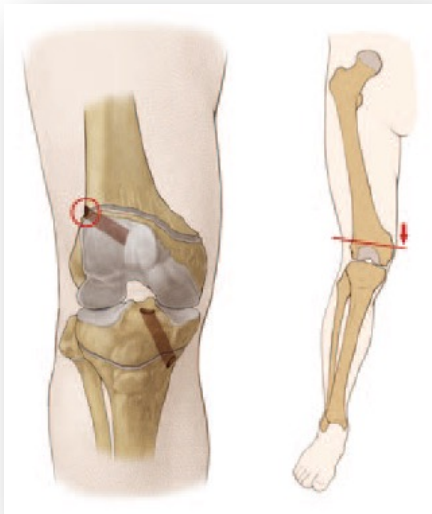


# Potential growth disturbances in pediatric ACL reconstructions

## 4 types of gross complications

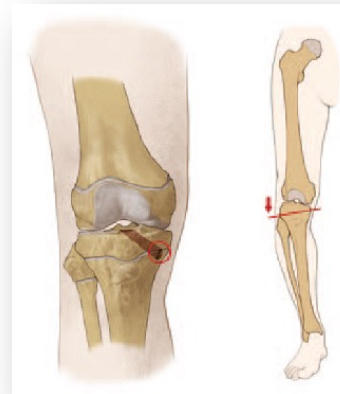
**N = 354** in the literature

*Moksnes, Engebretsen, Seil, KSSTA 2015*

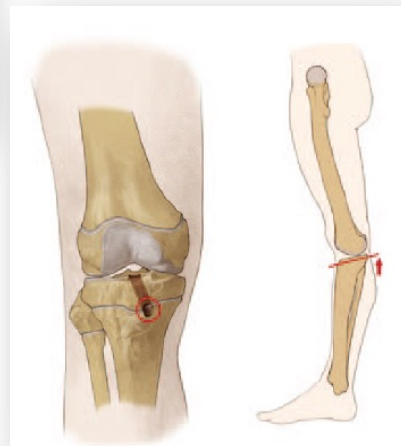


Arrest distal lateral femur physis: valgus knee

Arrest tibial tuberosity: recurvatum



NO transphyseal hardware or synthetic graft



Arrest medial proximal tibial physis: Varus knee



*Chotel F, KSSTA 2010*

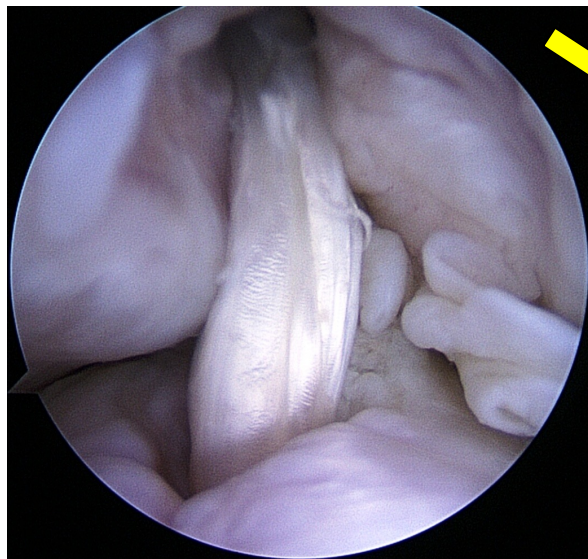
# Graft modifications with knee growth after ACL reconstructions

1. Upward migration of femoral fixation

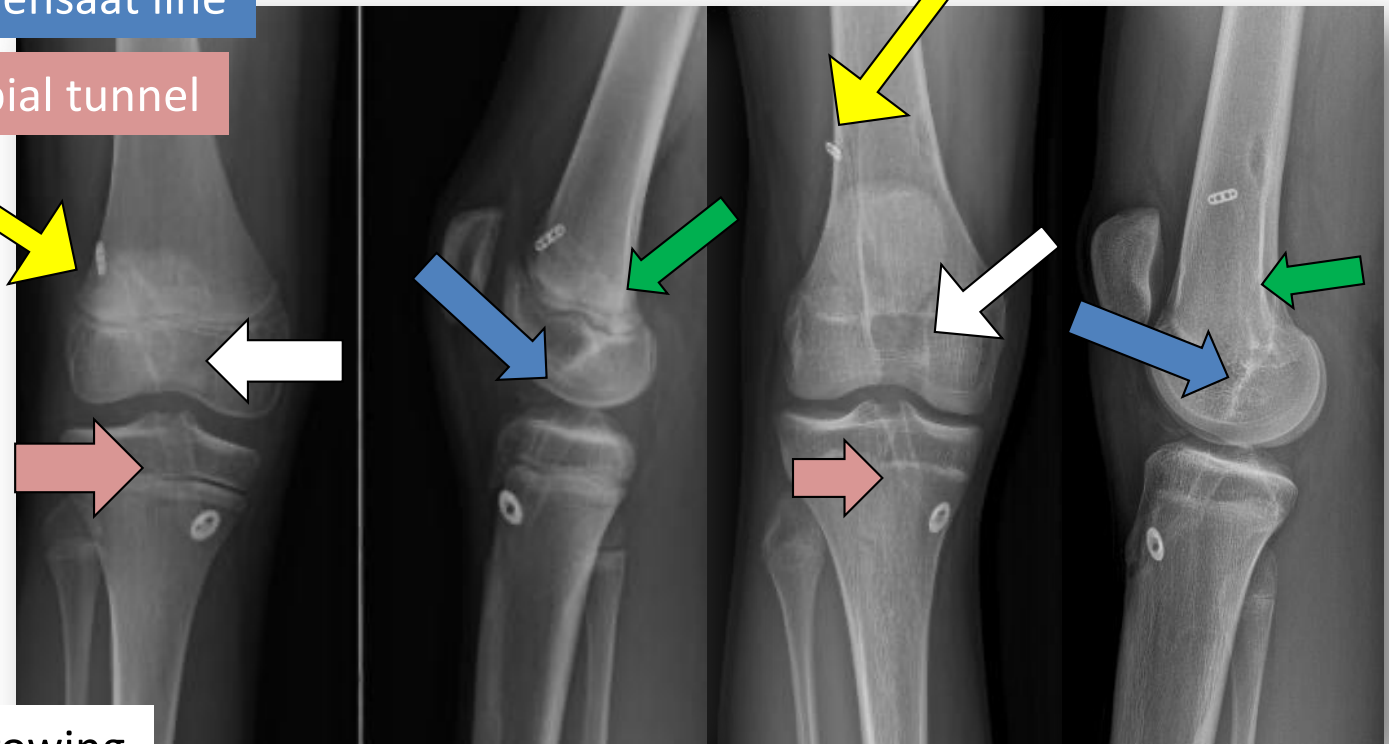
2. Verticalization of femoral tunnel

3. Verticalization of Blumensaat line

4. Relative thinning of tibial tunnel



5. Intercondylar notch narrowing



♂ ACL-replacement @ 11 y

+ 5 years



Changes in the four-strand hamstring graft in anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction in the skeletally-immature knee

*JBJS-B 2008*

S. Bollen,  
F. Pease,  
A. Ehrenreich,  
S. Church,  
J. Skinner,  
A. Williams



# Adapt the technique to the age

## Reconstruction of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament in the Skeletally Immature Athlete: A Review of Current Concepts

AAOS Exhibit Selection

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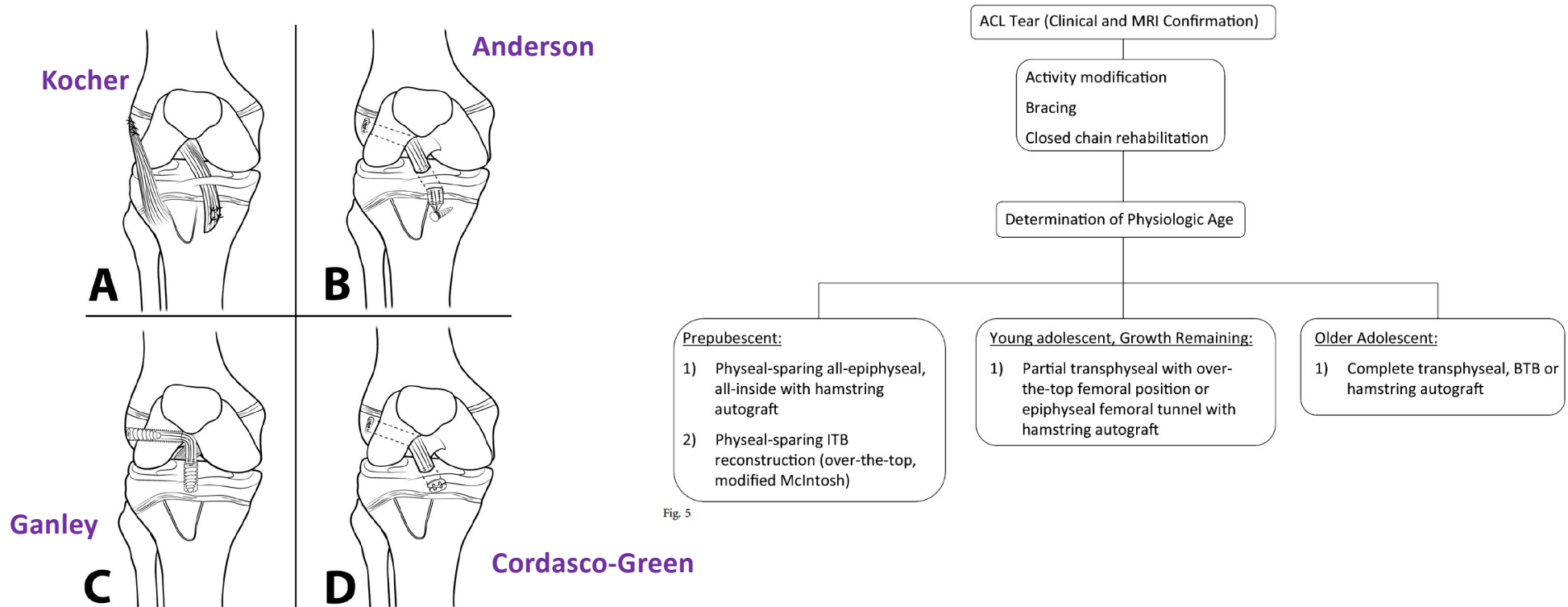


Fig. 5

# ACL-r Pediatric & Adolescent

## *Technical Guidelines - R Seil*

- Avoid hardware across Lateral Fistal Femoral Physis
- Avoid hardware across Tibial Tubercle Apophysis
- Avoid Bone Plugs across Physis
  - Hamstrings Graft
- Avoid LARGE tunnels
- Avoid Extra-Articular Tenodesis
- Minimal Over-the-Top dissection & Notchplasty
- Consider Physeal Sparing Reconstruction in prepubescent patients

Seil et al. *Journal of Experimental Orthopaedics* \_\_\_\_\_  
DOI 10.1186/s40634-015-0027-z

 Journal of  
Experimental Orthopaedics  
a SpringerOpen Journal

REVIEW

Open Access

Surgical-experimental principles of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction with open growth plates

Romain Seil<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Frederick K Weitz<sup>3</sup> and Dietrich Pape<sup>1,2</sup>



# RE-injury rates - *Kocher*

## Transphyseal Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction in Skeletally Immature Pubescent Adolescents

By Mininder S. Kocher, MD, MPH, Jeremy T. Smith, MD, Bojan J. Zoric, MD, Ben Lee, BA, and Lyle J. Micheli, MD

Continuous cohort with transephyseal Hamstrings ACL reconstruction in 61 adolescents aged 14,7 yo (11.6-16.9) & (Tanner stage 3) b. 1996 et 2004. FU at 3.6 ans (2.0 à 10.2 ans)

### **2 iterative reconstruction of ACL (3%)**

IKDC 89.5 /Lysholm knee score 91.2

Lachman 0 51 / 59 cas

Pivot-shift normal 56 / Glide 3 / franc +explosive 0

- NO radiologic axes change
- NO lenght discrepancy
- 3 stiffness



*Transphyseal reconstruction of the anterior cruciate ligament with use of an **autogenous quadrupled hamstrings-tendon graft** with metaphyseal fixation in skeletally immature pubescent adolescents provides an excellent functional outcome with a low revision rate and a minimal risk of growth disturbance. There was a low revision rate (3%),*

# RE-injury rates - Shelbourne

## Incidence of Subsequent Injury to Either Knee Within 5 Years After Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction With Patellar Tendon Autograft

K. Donald Shelbourne,\* MD, Tinker Gray, MA, and Marc Haro, MD  
From the Shelbourne Knee Center, Indianapolis, Indiana

♀ < 18 ans = 19 %  
7 % at 5 years  
12 % controlateral

TABLE 3  
Subsequent ACL Injuries to Either Knee Based on Age Group and Gender<sup>a</sup>

Age Group/Gender	n	ACL Tear to ACL-Reconstructed Knee		ACL Tear to Contralateral Knee		P Value (Difference in Tears Between Knees)
		n	%	n	%	
<18 years old	528	46	8.7	46	8.7	1.00
Female	310	23	7.4	36	11.6	.00998 <sup>b</sup>
Male	218	23	10.6	10	4.6	.02845 <sup>b</sup>
P value (difference in tears between genders)		.214		.0046 <sup>b</sup>		
18 to 25 years old	350	9	2.6	14	4.0	.3969
Female	103	2	1.9	5	4.9	.4450
Male	247	7	2.8	9	3.6	.800
P value (difference in tears between genders)		1.00		.5631		
>25 years old	537	6	1.1	15	2.8	.0754
Female	139	1	0.7	2	1.4	1.00
Male	398	5	1.3	13	3.3	.0925
P value (difference in tears between genders)		1.00		.3746		
Totals	1415	61	4.3	75	5.3	.2185
Female	552	26	4.7	43	7.8	.0459 <sup>b</sup>
Male	863	35	4.1	32	3.7	.8034
P value (difference in tears between genders)		.5543		.0014 <sup>a</sup>		

♀  
< 18

19%

7,8%

<sup>a</sup>ACL, anterior cruciate ligament.

<sup>b</sup>Statistically significant difference between groups.

# RE-injury rates - Webster

## Exploring the High Reinjury Rate in Younger Patients Undergoing Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

Kate E. Webster and Julian A. Feller  
*Am J Sports Med* published online July 7, 2016

Cohorte study 316 (FU) / 354 patients < 20 YO Hamstrings

5 years FU (3-10) : RE-rupture & CONTRO lateral rupture

- **RE-ruptures** : 57 patients (**18%**) after 1.8 y.
- Highest RE-rupture rate = **28.3% in males <18 ans** (13.8% if >18 ans)
- **Controlateral ruptures** : **17.7%** average 3.7 years post-op

110 patients (**35%**) sustain **ANOTHER ACL tears** (any side)

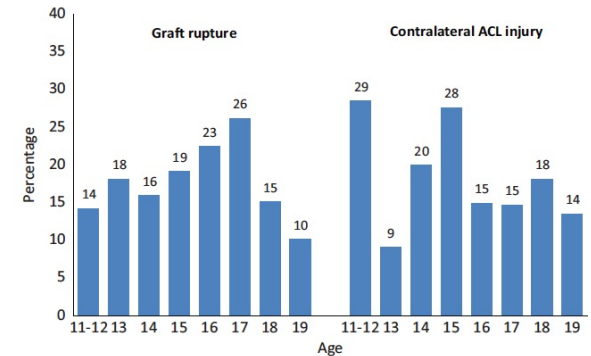


Figure 1. Percentage of patients with graft ruptures and contralateral anterior cruciate ligament injuries by each year of age.

TABLE 2

Graft Rupture Rates Categorized by Sex and Age

Age at Surgery, y	Male Patients, %	Female Patients, %
<18	28.3 <sup>a,b,c</sup>	12.9
18 or 19	13.8	9.7

TABLE 3

Contralateral ACL Injury Rates Categorized by Sex and Age

Age at Surgery, y	Male Patients, %	Female Patients, %
<18	18.9	18.8
18 or 19	17.0	12.9

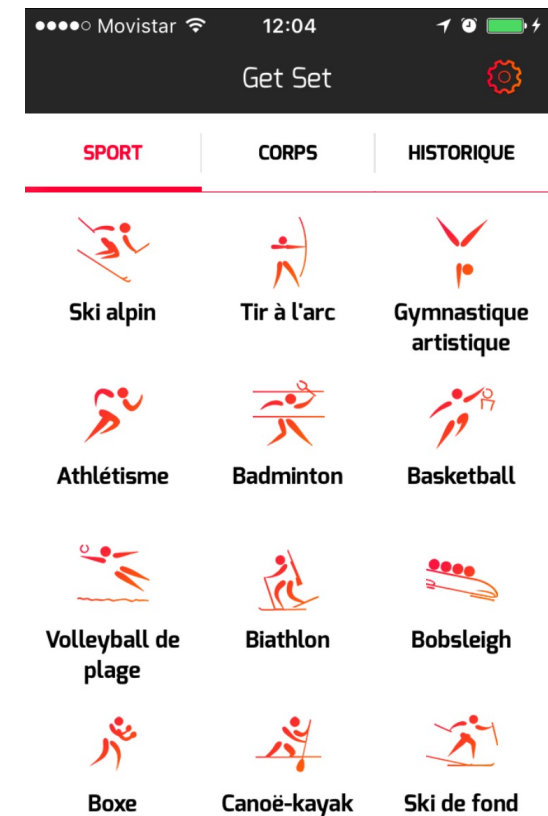
TABLE 4

All Second (Graft Rupture and Contralateral ACL Injury) ACL Injuries Categorized by Sex and Age

Age at Surgery, y	Male Patients, %	Female Patients, %
<18	44.3 <sup>a,b</sup>	31.8
18 or 19	30.9	22.6

# Prevention program

## Decrease te RISK of (RE-)injury



Hamstring Stretching  
Hamstring strenghtening



### 2C. Etirement des ischio-jambiers (2 séries de 30 secondes)

Temps écoulé	3,5-4,5 minutes
Objectif	Etirer les ischio-jambiers (muscles de l'arrière de la cuisse).
Instructions	Asseyez-vous au sol avec la jambe droite tendue devant vous. Pliez le genou gauche et placez le pied gauche au niveau de votre cuisse droite. Gardez le dos bien droit et penchez le buste en direction du genou droit. N'arrondissez pas le dos. Si possible, tentez d'attraper vos orteils et tirez-les en direction de votre tête. Evitez les à-coups. Maintenez la position 30 secondes et changez de jambe.



### 3B. Ischio-jambiers (3 séries de 10)

Temps écoulé	7,5-8,5 minutes
Objectif	Renforcer les ischio-jambiers.
Instructions	Agenouillez-vous au sol. Un partenaire vous tient fermement les chevilles. Le dos plat, penchez-vous en avant avec le bassin bien en avant. Genoux, hanches et épaules doivent former une ligne droite lorsque vous vous penchez en avant. Ne fléchissez pas le tronc. Vous devez sentir la tension dans les muscles à l'arrière de votre cuisse. Répétez l'exercice trois fois en séries de 10 ou une fois trente.



Roald BAHR, Grethe MYKLEBUST, Kathrin STEFFN & Ben CLARSEN  
OSLO

# Strict criteria for RTP

No PAIN

No EFFUSION

Full ROM

STABLE KNEE

HEALED graft & meniscus

Good muscular STRENGTH

Good functional STABILITY

No psychological apprehension

Clinical examination

Clinical examination

Physio assessment

GnRB & Pivot

MRI at FU

Isokinetiq (& Ratchet's chair hamstring test?)

JUMP landing – JUMP tests

Recorded videos of trauma ?

Psychological support ?

How to make decision ?  
Every day ...





# Quantify the residual growth potential

Knee = area high growth potential

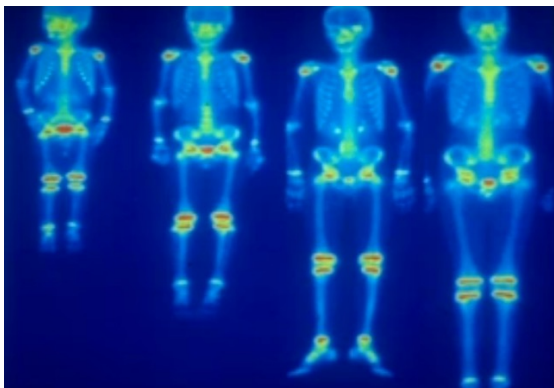
- Femur = **1,2 cm / year**
- Tibia = 0,8 cm / year

Bony age : residual growth

- X-rays : hand-wrist / elbow
- Centrifugal closing of growth-plate

**END of bone GROWTH in the knee**

- Female **13,5 y.**
- Male **15,5 y.**



## Growth of upper & lower segment not proportional

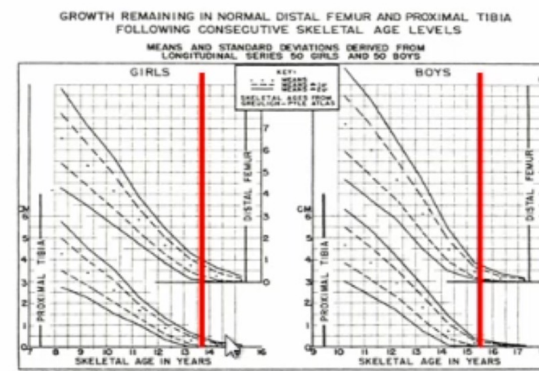
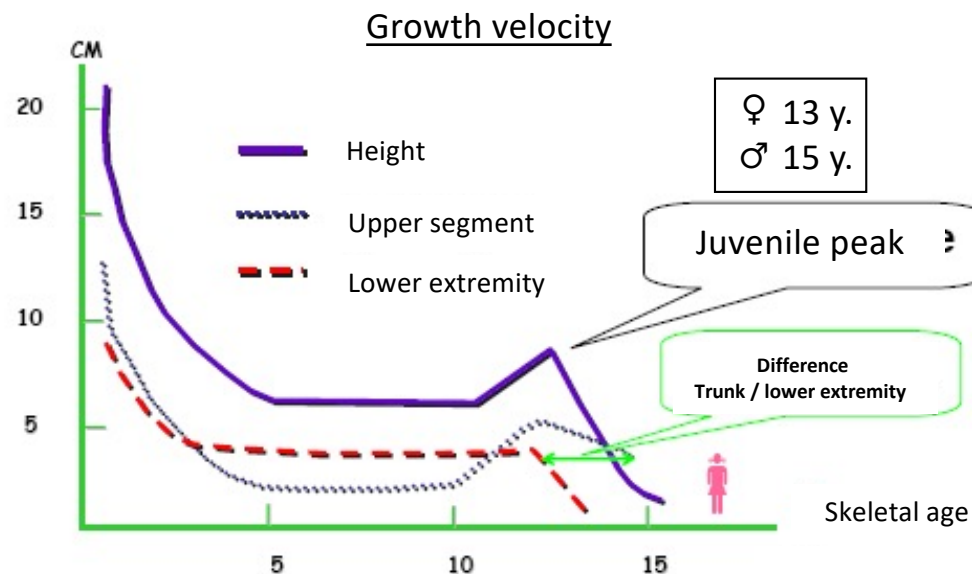


CHART III  
Growth chart which may be used as a guide in estimating the amounts of growth which may be inhibited in the distal end of the normal femur or the proximal end of the normal tibia by epiphyseal arrest at the skeletal ages indicated on the base line.

Anderson JBJS 1963

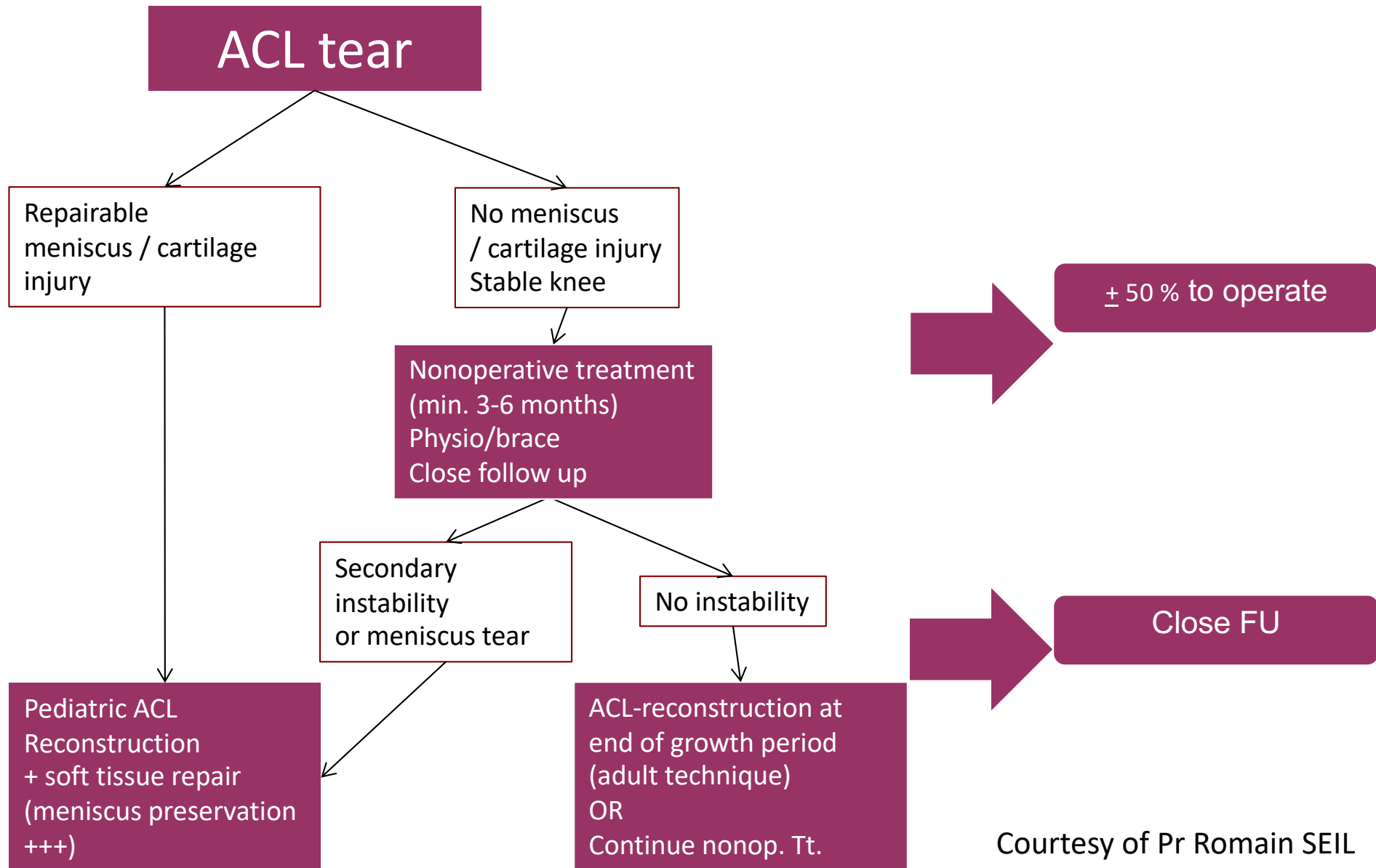


# Quantify the residual growth potential



MANDATORY +++

# « SFA » ALGORYTHM



Courtesy of Pr Romain SEIL

**Associated lesions :**  
**It makes change the decision algorithm**



Old fashion:

**Abstention**

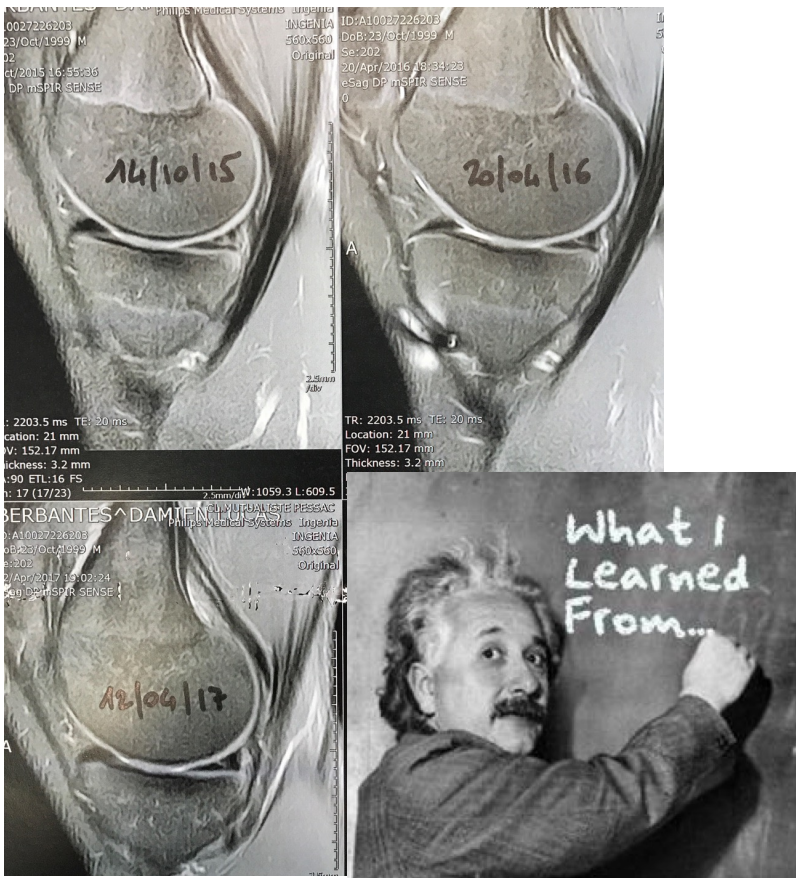
» Never operate on  
childrens »

v. « systematic »  
surgery

# Take Home messages

« Kids & adolescents are special »

- Instability is rarely reported by childrens
- Physiologic hyperlaxity (≠instability)
- Easy access to MRI
- BONY AGE
- **Screening for meniscal lesions**
- **CLOSE follow-up +++**
- Dedicated teams



## **CONCLUSIONS :** What we know ... and ignore

- Natural history of pediatric ACL DEFICIENT and RECONSTRUCTED knee not fully understood = long FU is needed to the end of the growth (at least)
- FAILURE rate after ACL-r is higher than in adults
- No evidence that subsequent meniscal lesions and ARTHRITIS could be avoided by early ACL reconstructions
- CONSERVATIVE treatment is sometimes an option
- Different techniques depending of children's characteristic in experienced surgical centers