

Progress in Solving the Enigma of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries

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Editorial

The scene is familiar to everybody watching or playing sports that involve jump-landing or pivoting activities such as basketball and soccer. An athlete who a few seconds ago was running down the field in full speed is now on the ground while the paramedics rush to him/her. The instant replays commonly show no contact; the athlete performed a task that he/she has done thousands of times before. At this time, however, a pop was heard and the athlete felt immediate pain while the knee buckled. The next day we find out that the athlete will be out for six months due to an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear.

It has become apparent by looking at the findings of long-term studies that most athletes who suffer ACL tears will remember the moment of the injury for the rest of their lives. Although many of these athletes will return to playing sports, most of them will develop early onset knee osteoarthritis even after surgical treatment [1]. Progress is constantly made in the development of surgical techniques that better restore rotatory instability [2] or maintain the original ACL

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