Figure 1 Diagrammatic illustration of ACL guide placement during subtalar joint arthrodesis.

Figure 2 Photograph taken during the operation, illustrating the placement of the ACL guide.

Repetitive fluoroscopy is often needed to achieve this, which can increase the surgical time and radiation exposure to the surgeon. Use of an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) guide during screw placement for subtalar arthrodesis has not been described previously. The technique involves placing one end of the ACL guide on the superior aspect of talar neck while the other end is placed on the plantar aspect of calcaneum (Figs 1 and 2). Satisfactory bony union was obtained in all cases using this simple technique.

A useful and economical suture passer

NAVEED SHAIKH, ENIS GURYEL, KERRY ACTON
Orthopaedic Department, Worthing General Hospital,
Worthing, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Naveed Shaikh, Orthopaedic Department, Worthing General
Hospital, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing BN11 2DH, UK
E: boneangel1@hotmail.com

Sutures are often passed through trochanteric drill holes to effect a strong soft tissue repair after posterior approach to the hip. We use a 3/0 nylon on a straight needle. The needle is held with a needle holder, passed backwards through the drill holes and the nylon pulled through making a loop (Fig. 1). The suture to be passed is placed into the loop. The needle and nylon are pulled back, dragging the suture through the drill holes. A nylon suture is approximately one-tenth of the cost of a disposable suture passer and can easily be passed through small drill holes.

Figure 1 Illustration of the technique.