Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SciVerse ScienceDirect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jcot

Letter to the Editor

Medial patellofemoral ligament reconstruction

Sir,

I read the article by Kalra et al with great interest in December 2012 issue, in which the authors have described their way of performing medial patellofemoral ligament (MPFL) reconstruction.¹ I congratulate the authors for this description; however, I would like to make the following points:

The authors have mentioned that the graft was 'adequately' tensioned in place so as to keep the patella stabilized within the trochlea.¹ In my opinion, it is difficult to assess such adequacy from external inspection alone. Furthermore, lateral femoral condyle may be hypoplastic in long standing cases. It has been suggested that MPFL may have a dynamic component.² So, the relationship of patella with trochlear notch may be disturbed with knee movements. Importance should not be given to the static positioning of the patella within the trochlea at a particular point, but to the patellar tracking within it. The proper patellar tracking must be ensured with the assistance of an arthroscope at the time of tensioning the graft, only then the 'adequacy' of it may be ensured.

Another concern is pertaining to the fixation methods used on the femoral as well as patellar side in the described technique. Simple suturing the graft at medial and lateral borders of patella is not sufficient and it is likely to give way during loading of the graft and rehabilitation phase. The authors have used 6.5 mm cancellous lag screw for fixation of graft on the femoral side,¹ which is known for its ability to cut the precious tendon graft during its insertion. Alternatively, an interference screw or endobutton could have been better and 'safe'.

The letter intends to bring these important issues to the kind notice of readers; nevertheless, the authors have described a useful method to reconstruct MPFL.¹

REFERENCES

1. Kalra M, Mahapatra S, Patralekh MK, Kanojia RK. Medial patellofemoral ligament reconstruction- a novel technique. *J Clin Orthop Trauma*. 2012;3(2):107–111.
2. Mountney J, Senavongse W, Amis AA, Thomas NP. Tensile strength of the medial patellofemoral ligament before and after repair or reconstruction. *J Bone Joint Surg Br*. 2005;87:36–40.

Sumit Arora MS Ortho, DNB Ortho, MNAMS*
Assistant Professor, Central Institute of Orthopaedics, Vardhman
Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
110029, India

Aman Goyal MS Ortho, DNB Ortho
Senior Resident, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Maulana Azad
Medical College and Associated Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi
110002, India

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +91 9868329389.
E-mail address: mamc_309@yahoo.co.in

Available online 18 January 2013

0976-5662/\$ – see front matter
Copyright © 2013, Delhi Orthopaedic Association. All rights reserved.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcot.2013.01.001>