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Letter to the Editor

Reply to Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Thanks for reading our article with interest and for your positive comments.

Patellar maltracking can be assessed reasonably well by keen observation of the patella during knee range of motion. Many authors did not use an arthroscope for intraoperative assessment of patellar tracking.^{1–3} We also avoided the same and avoided joint penetration for an otherwise extraarticular procedure. MPFL as such serves only as a static checkrein preventing patella subluxation.¹ We assessed dynamic tracking of the patella and the tension of the reconstructed MPFL from 0° to full knee flexion intraoperatively just after graft fixation and confirmed appropriate tension in the graft as was done by Deie et al.² Though some trochlear dysplasia was present in our case, patella was adequately stabilised by MPFL reconstruction and hence no additional procedure was necessary. Trochleoplasty should be reserved for severe dysplasia in which patellofemoral stability cannot otherwise be achieved.⁴

We take your point well that an interference screw would have been better for femoral fixation of the graft. We however used a cancellous screw to reduce the cost of surgery for this unaffording patient. Cancellous screw for femoral side graft fixation was also successfully used by Schock et al.^{1,3} Though the risk of cutting out of the graft was there, the adequacy of fixation was provided by compression of the graft by the non-threaded portion of the screw against the tunnel. Additionally, compression by washer also helped in maintaining the fixation.

The fixation of the graft on the patellar side was done by suturing at both the ends of the tunnel with non-absorbable no 2 ethibond suture which gives reasonably strong hold, avoiding additional implant use. Other authors have also used suture fixation on the patellar side with success.^{2,5} Ultimately we were also able to achieve a good result. Finally, we appreciate all your efforts and sincerity in bringing out certain drawbacks of the technique.

No benefits in any form have been received or will be received from a commercial party related directly or indirectly to the subject of this article.

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