Reply to the Letter to the Editor

Reply to the Letter to the Editor: Is Stability of the Proximal Tibiofibular Joint Important in the Multiligament-injured Knee?

Michael Jabara MD

To the editor,

Thank you for your insightful questions.

One of the goals of our paper was to bring recognition to a possible associated injury in the setting of a multiligament injured knee. As

previously mentioned, the frequency of proximal tibiofibular joint instability in this group of patients is truly unknown, and associated injuries in our cohort of patients, including fractures, also were common. There have been numerous techniques described [2–5] to surgically stabilize an unstable proximal tibiofibular joint as mentioned in our paper. We do not necessarily believe that our technique is better than any other, and certainly further studies may help answer the question of what technique offers the best clinical results.

The decision to use screw fixation to stabilize the proximal tibiofibular joint in our group of patients was made partly due to the availability of the hardware. On many occasions, the diagnosis was not made until the time of surgery. Moreover, similar techniques have been used to stabilize the distal tibiofibular joint with good results [1, 6, 7]. To date, we have not experienced any known screw breakage, and have removed the screw in two patients due to local pain around the screw. Both patients have not experienced any further issues.

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