KEY PROCEDURES

On the Cutting Edge for Teaching Surgical Techniques

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The reputation of The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery has always depended on maintaining the highest standard for quality while disseminating information relevant to musculoskeletal care. As our specialty advanced technically, *Essential Surgical Techniques* was initiated to convey practical “how to” information for the practicing orthopaedic surgeon. A distinguishing feature of *Essential Surgical Techniques* is that the outcomes of every presented procedure have been established and upheld by publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Surgeons can have confidence knowing that the peer-review process has verified both the procedure description and the outcomes of the procedure itself.

This month, *Essential Surgical Techniques* breaks new ground with the debut of a new content series entitled *Key Procedures*. Most of the articles previously published in *Essential Surgical Techniques* have described highly specialized procedures, in the realm of subspecialty practice. We realized the need to also provide educational content on how to perform the basic, fundamental orthopaedic surgical procedures with which all orthopaedic surgeons should be familiar, regardless of their subspecialty focus. *Key Procedures* is a valuable, online, constantly updated, and immediately available resource for all surgeons to use, either as a reference or for quick review when on call or in various other settings. We have embraced video as the optimal means of communicating surgical concepts and are excited to initiate publication of these articles consisting entirely of narrated video.

The web interface has been completely revamped to take advantage of technological developments for this new video article series. *Key Procedures* articles are ten to fifteen minutes in length, with a written abstract. Wireless access via computer, smartphone, or tablet is possible, with viewing automatically optimized for each specific format. Articles begin with authors speaking directly to viewers to provide a brief introduction. The videos then discuss the background and indications for the procedure, and references documenting the outcomes are provided. Next come the critical steps of the procedure: patient positioning, setup, surgical exposure, and the specific surgical steps.

The video player is interactive, with viewers able to control what they wish to focus upon by jumping to particular surgical steps (or other sections of interest) with clicks on captions describing these steps. Viewers can also move the video cursor to any particular area of interest. The articles have valuable features such as side-by-side videos, a useful means of displaying both intra-articular and external views for arthroscopic procedures; specific tips and

Click the arrow above or go to surgicaltechniques.jbjs.org to view the video article described in this summary.

tricks to help make every surgeon an expert; and a section listing the risks and potential complications to help surgeons “stay out of trouble.” Finally, the videos describe expected results that can be shared with patients as well as recommendations for postoperative care.

We hope and anticipate that the succinct, readily navigable, online format of our *Key Procedures* video articles will be a valuable resource that you can depend on at any time. As an online journal, it will always be up to date, with new articles coming out regularly. Our goal is to enable you to provide the highest possible level of care to your patients. Please have a look. Then let us know whether we have succeeded, or if you have suggestions for either specific procedures that you would like published or any other areas for improvement.

We hope you’ll enjoy watching more and reading less!