Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with bone-hamstring-bone hybrid procedure

Miroslav Milankov · Dragan Savic

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Dear Editors,

We read the article “Augmentation of autologous hamstring graft during anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction using the bone chip technique” by Nha et al. [3] with great interest. We would like to commend the authors on their work.

ACL reconstruction with bone-hamstring-bone (BHB) is a hybrid procedure that lacks the disadvantages of the bone-patellar tendon-bone and semitendinosus and gracilis tendon methods while retaining the advantages of these methods. Nha et al. [3] described very interesting technique to augment the thickness of the hamstring tendon graft during ACL reconstruction using cancellous bone chips from the femoral intercondylar notch. But this technique is not new, it should be noted that this technique was published several years ago. Liu et al. [1] in 1995 measured the initial fixation strength of a new graft, bone-hamstring-bone (BHB), for reconstruction of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in 79 porcine knees and compared it with that of the normal porcine ACL and of the bone-patellar tendon-bone (BPTB) graft. Takeuchi et al. [4] in 2002 described composite graft prepared by folding the gracilis and the semitendinosus tendons twice and flanking the ends by bone blocks obtained from the tibia. Milankov et al. [2] in 2007 use two cancellous bone cylinders, were taken out of the tibial tunnel, by use of a cancellous bone extractor, and fixed to both ends of the graft by use of sutures. One

end of the graft was put into a pressing device to achieve a graft diameter of 9 or 10 mm, and then the other end was pressed. By doing so, very strong end parts of the graft were obtained.

We also believe, when using the AM portal technique for creation femoral tunnel, it is rarely needed to make notchplastic, so the usage of bone from that place is not necessary because it leads to additional damage. It is better to use cancellous bone cylinders taken out of the tibial tunnel.

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M. Milankov (✉) · D. Savic
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology,
Clinical Center Vojvodina, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia
e-mail: milankom@eunet.rs