

SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR MENISCAL INJURIES OF THE KNEE IN ADULTS

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ABSTRACT

Background

Injuries to the knee menisci are common and operations to treat them are among the most common procedures performed by orthopaedic surgeons.

Objective

To evaluate the effects of common surgical interventions in the treatment of meniscal injuries of the knee. The four comparisons under test were: a) surgery versus conservative treatment, b) partial versus total meniscectomy, c) excision versus repair of meniscal tears, d) surgical access, in particular arthroscopic versus open.

Criteria for considering studies for this review

We searched the Cochrane Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Group specialised register (March 2001), MEDLINE (1966 -1998) and bibliographies of published papers.

Selection criteria

All randomised and quasi-randomised trials which involved the above four comparisons or which compared other surgical interventions for the treatment of meniscal injury.

Data collection and analysis

Trial inclusion was agreed by both reviewers who independently assessed trial quality, by use of a 12 item scale, and extracted data. Where possible and appropriate, data were presented graphically.

Main results

Three trials, involving 260 patients, which addressed two (partial versus total meniscectomy; surgical access) comparisons were included.

Authors' conclusions

The lack of randomised trials means that no conclusions can be drawn on the issue of surgical versus non-surgical treatment of meniscal injuries, nor meniscal tear repair versus excision.
