

ANTERIOR CRUCIATE RECONSTRUCTION

Patient Information

PROCEDURE

Replacement of a cruciate ligament which has been ruptured. A graft is taken from the hamstring tendons or from the front of the knee to replace the cruciate ligament.

GENERAL RISKS OF A PROCEDURE

- (a) Small areas of the lungs may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- (b) Clots in the legs with pain and swelling. Rarely part of this clot may break off and go to the lungs which can be fatal.
- (c) A heart attack because of strain on the heart or a stroke.
- (d) Death is possible due to the procedure.

RISKS OF THIS PROCEDURE

- (a) Numbness associated with the use of tourniquet with nerve and muscle damage at the site where the tourniquet was placed. This may be temporary or permanent.
- (b) Skin death under the tourniquet, which may require further dressings and / or surgery and skin grafting.
- (c) Rupture of the graft. This may require further surgery.
- (d) Infection in the knee which sometimes requires removal of the graft and washing out of the knee, leaving a stiff knee.
- (e) The surgery may not work and the knee may continue to give way.
- (f) Stiffness of the knee. This may be temporary or permanent.
- (g) Abnormal pain response to surgery with worsening of pain and disability.
- (h) The surgical cut may cause changes to the sensation and colour of the limb.
- (i) In some people, healing of the wound may be abnormal and the wound can be thickened and red and the scar may be painful.
- (j) Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.
- (k) Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.