

Editorial Commentary: Hamstring Autografts Are More Frequently Associated With ACL Infection



Abstract: Hamstring autograft is associated with higher rates of ACL infection than other grafts. Hamstring grafts presoaked with vancomycin are recommended.

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Makhni, Steinhaus, Mehran, Schulz, and Ahmad from Columbia University systematically review “Functional outcome and graft retention in patients with septic arthritis following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction.”¹ Use of hamstring autografts results in higher infection rates. In our practice, if a hamstring autograft is indicated, we recommend chlorhexidine gluconate bathing of the patient the night before and the morning of surgery, and vancomycin-solution bathing of the autograft prior to implantation.²

Makhni et al. found that only 78% of patients retained their grafts. This retention rate is lower than in our experience, and a possible explanation is that the centers publishing their results provide tertiary care, receiving referrals of the most difficult cases.³⁻⁶

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References

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