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.

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.” 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.

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.

References