

Effect of Activity at Time of Injury and Concomitant Ligament Injuries on Patient-Reported Outcome After Posterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

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Background: The outcomes after posterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (PCLR) have been shown to be inferior to those of anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. There is a lack of knowledge regarding prognostic factors of PCLR outcomes.

Purpose: To explore the effect of injury mechanism and concomitant ligament injuries on patient-reported outcomes at 2-year follow-up after PCLR.

Study Design: Cohort study; Level of evidence, 2.

Methods: A total of 373 patients who underwent primary PCLR and who were registered in the Norwegian Knee Ligament Registry were included. The Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) was used as the patient-reported outcome measure. At 2-year follow-up, 252 patients (68%) had completed the KOOS. Multiple regression analysis was used to evaluate the effects of injury activity and multiligament injuries on the KOOS outcomes.

Results: In the adjusted and unadjusted regression analyses, patients injured during sports reported significantly better outcome at 2-year follow-up after PCLR than patients injured during other activities ($P < .001$) according to all KOOS subscales. Adjusted analysis was as follows for the KOOS subscales: Symptoms (regression coefficient [β], 7.0; 95% CI, 1.9-12.2), Pain (β , 13.4; 95% CI, 8.0-18.9), Activities of Daily Living (β , 12.6; 95% CI, 7.1-18.1), Sport/Recreation (β , 15.3; 95% CI, 8.0-22.5), and Quality of Life (β , 13.5; 95% CI, 7.1-20.0). In the unadjusted analysis, patients with isolated PCL injuries reported higher scores in the Sport/Recreation subscale (β , -7.9; 95% CI, -15.5 to -0.3). The difference was not significant in the adjusted analysis. No other significant differences in KOOS outcomes were found between isolated and multiligament injuries.

Conclusion: Patients injured in sports reported better outcomes at 2 years after PCLR as compared with patients injured in other activities. Multiligament injuries involving the PCL do not seem to predict a worse outcome than for isolated PCL injuries.

Keywords: PCL; knee; ligament registry; multiligament

An injury to the posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) is considered a serious but rare event. This is even more so the case for multiligament knee injuries involving the PCL. Injury to the PCL has been reported to account for 2.4% of American high school knee injuries.²⁷ Another study reported that injury to the PCL occurred in 1% to 44% of all knee injuries.²⁵ The PCL has an intrinsic healing capability; however, healing of the PCL may occur in a nonanatomic position if the injury is not recognized within the first weeks. This can result in an elongated PCL and a knee with increased laxity to posterior translation of the tibia and lack of or reduced

function of the healed ligament.^{6,25,29} In the majority of PCL injuries, there are concomitant injuries to other ligaments, menisci, or cartilage.^{14,18} Other injured ligaments may not have the same intrinsic healing capability as the PCL, and the combined injuries may lead to a severely destabilized knee. Therefore, multiligament knee injuries involving a PCL tear are most often treated surgically.

Over the past few years, there has been an increased focus on PCL reconstruction (PCLR).^{15,20} The reported outcomes following PCLR are not as good as for anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction, and they are far from excellent.¹⁹ It is unclear why the outcomes are inferior. In attempts to improve them, new techniques with double-bundle reconstruction have been developed.^{7,16,26} Most studies conclude that the subjective outcomes following single- and double-

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bundle reconstruction are similar,^{7,15,20} although the objective outcomes seem to be better for reconstruction with a double bundle.^{11,20,26} This may imply that there are other important factors that affect the outcome after injury and reconstruction. To improve future outcomes after PCLR, information about prognostic factors is important.

To our knowledge, no previous studies have investigated prognostic factors for outcomes after PCLR. As reported ACL reconstruction outcomes are superior to those for PCLR, and given that a higher proportion of ACL injuries are caused by sports injuries, injury activity might be of importance for outcome.¹⁸ Previous reports on multiligament injuries have shown good to excellent outcome following surgical reconstruction of such severe knee injuries.^{8,9,13} The objective of the present study was to investigate the effect of injury mechanism (sports vs nonsports injuries) and the severity of the ligament injury (multiligament injuries vs isolated PCL injury) on patient-reported outcome at 2-year follow-up after PCLR.

METHODS

Included in this study were patients from the Norwegian Knee Ligament Registry, which was established in 2004. The main objective of the registry was to prospectively register all surgical procedures on knee ligaments in Norway and to monitor the outcomes. Every hospital in Norway reports cruciate ligament reconstructions to the registry; both primary and revision procedures are reported. Approximately 86% of performed procedures are reported to the registry.³¹ The patients complete the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) questionnaire preoperatively and at 2, 5, and 10 years postoperatively. Informed consent is obtained from all patients. The surgeon completes a form postoperatively, with information regarding the findings and specifications of the performed procedure. The registry has been described in more detail in previous studies.^{3-5,31}

Patients

A total of 373 patients who had undergone primary PCLR were registered in the Norwegian Knee Ligament Registry between 2004 and 2013. In the present study, all patients who completed the KOOS at the 2-year follow-up were included, representing a total of 252 (68%) patients, with a loss to follow-up of 121 (32%) patients. About one-third of the patients had an isolated PCL injury, and two-thirds had a multiligament injury. Only patients treated with repair or reconstruction of the associated injured structures were considered to have multiligament injuries. Baseline characteristics of the included

patients and those lost to follow-up are shown in Table 1. The median patient age at the time of surgery was 35 years (range, 14-67 years). Of the patients included, 112 (44%) were female. Grafts used for reconstruction were divided into autologous hamstring or other. This was done because the hamstring is the most prevalent graft used in the registry, and all the other graft options are relatively small in number when each is compared against it.

KOOS Questionnaire

The KOOS questionnaire is a self-administered knee function score consisting of 42 questions divided into 5 subscales: Pain, Symptoms, Activities of Daily Living, Sport/Recreation, and Quality of Life. It was developed in the 1990s by Roos et al.²³ The KOOS includes the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index in its complete and original format, and it is a validated and reliable tool for measuring the knee function of patients with osteoarthritis and for several types of knee injury, including those to the ACL, meniscus, and cartilage.²² Scoring for each subscale ranges from 0 (worst) to 100 (best). A difference of 8 to 10 points in a subscale is usually considered a clinically relevant effect.² The recommendation is to evaluate each subscale independently when considering outcome measures.²²

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed with SPSS (v 22.0; IBM). The study's objective was to evaluate the effect of injury activity and concomitant knee ligament injuries on patient-reported outcome, as measured by KOOS outcomes after PCLR. At first, crude mean KOOS scores for patients with isolated PCL injuries and multiligament injuries were estimated. Then, patients were put into 2 categories: those injured during sports and those injured during other activities. Crude mean KOOS scores were calculated for each activity group. Linear regression analyses were then performed. In unadjusted analyses, the factors of interest (ie, injury activity and multiligament injuries) were included separately as independent variables, with each KOOS subscale as the dependent variable. Based on current literature regarding injury to the ACL and clinical assumption, the following variables were considered possible confounders and predictors for patient-reported outcome: sex, age (continuous variable), time from injury to surgery (continuous variable), concomitant meniscal injury, concomitant cartilage injury, concomitant neural/arterial/tendon injury, and type of PCL graft. These factors were included in the multiple linear regression analyses with the factors of

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Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Norwegian Data Inspectorate.

TABLE 1
Baseline Characteristics at the Time of PCL Reconstruction of the Patients Included in the Study Cohort and the Patients Lost to Follow-up^a

	Study Cohort (n ₁)	Lost to Follow-up (n ₂)
Age at surgery, y (n ₁ = 252, n ₂ = 121), median (range)	35 (14-67)	27 (15-62)
Time from injury to surgery, mo (n ₁ = 249, n ₂ = 118), median (range)	12 (0-240)	12 (0-204)
Sex: female (n ₁ = 252, n ₂ = 121)	112 (44) ^b	37 (31)
Activity at time of injury (n ₁ = 247, n ₂ = 117)		
Sports	137 (55) ^b	48 (40)
Other than sports	110 (43) ^b	69 (57)
Unknown	5 (2)	4 (3)
Concomitant (n ₁ = 252, n ₂ = 121)		
Ligament injury ^c		
Isolated PCL injury	79 (31)	36 (35)
Multiligament injury	173 (69)	78 (65)
Meniscal lesion	59 (23)	32 (26)
Cartilage lesion	99 (39)	40 (33)
Other injury ^d	12 (5)	11 (9)
PCL graft (n ₁ = 242, n ₂ = 117)		
Hamstrings	172 (68)	83 (69)
Other	70 (28)	34 (28)
Unknown	10 (4)	4 (3)
Preoperative KOOS, mean (95% CI)		
Pain (n ₁ = 168, n ₂ = 84)	60.7 (57.4-67.0)	64.5 (60.2-68.8)
Symptoms (n ₁ = 171, n ₂ = 85)	65.2 (62.5-67.9)	68.8 (65.2-72.4)
ADL (n ₁ = 167, n ₂ = 82)	66.4 (62.9-69.9)	71.1 (66.5-75.7)
Sport/Recreation (n ₁ = 166, n ₂ = 83)	24.6 (20.7-28.5)	30.9 (25.3-36.5)
QoL (n ₁ = 168, n ₂ = 84)	28.1 (25.1-31.1)	29.8 (25.4-34.2)

^aData are reported as n (%) unless otherwise indicated. ADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bStatistically significant difference, *P* < .05.

^cAnterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament, lateral collateral ligament, posterolateral corner.

^dNeural injury, arterial injury, fracture, tendon rupture.

interest as independent variables and with each KOOS subscale as the dependent variable.

Effects of injury activity and multiligament injury on KOOS values were considered statistically significant at *P* < .05. All crude mean KOOS scores and regression coefficient estimates (β) are presented with 95% CIs.

RESULTS

Activity at Time of Injury

There were 137 (55%) patients injured in sports in our study population, 110 (43%) injured in activities other than

TABLE 2
Baseline Characteristics of Patients Undergoing PCL Reconstruction by Activity at Time of Injury^a

	Sports Injury (n ₁ = 137)	Other Activity (n ₂ = 110)
Age at surgery, y, median (range)	35 (14 to 67)	33 (14 to 65)
Time from injury to surgery, mo, median (range)	24 (0 to 228)	24 (0 to 240)
Sex: female, percentage (95% CI)	48 (40.8 to 55.2) ^b	33 (26.1 to 39.9)
Concomitant, percentage (95% CI)		
Ligament injury ^c		
Isolated PCL injury	31 (24.3 to 37.7)	35 (28.0 to 42.0)
Multiligament injury	69 (62.3 to 75.6)	65 (58.0 to 72.0)
Meniscal lesion	22 (16.0 to 28.0)	27 (20.5 to 33.5)
Cartilage lesion	37 (30.0 to 44.0)	37 (30.0 to 44.0)
Other injury ^d	3 (2.6 to 9.4)	9 (4.8 to 13.2)
PCL graft, percentage (95% CI)		
Hamstrings	69 (62.3 to 75.6)	68 (61.2 to 74.8)
Other	25 (18.8 to 31.2)	30 (23.3 to 36.7)
Unknown	6 (2.6 to 9.4)	2 (-0.1 to 4.1)
	n ₃	n ₄
KOOS, preoperative, mean (95% CI)		
Pain (n ₃ = 129, n ₄ = 116)	62.9 (59.2 to 66.6)	60.4 (56.6 to 64.2)
Symptoms (n ₃ = 132, n ₄ = 117)	67.2 (64.1 to 70.3)	65.7 (62.5 to 68.9)
ADL (n ₃ = 129, n ₄ = 113)	69.1 (65.1 to 73.1)	66.1 (62.1 to 70.1)
Sport/Recreation (n ₃ = 130, n ₄ = 112)	27.4 (22.8 to 32.0)	26.2 (21.5 to 30.9)
QoL (n ₃ = 130, n ₄ = 115)	29.4 (25.8 to 33.0)	27.5 (24.1 to 30.9)

^aADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bStatistically significant higher number of females in the sport group, *P* < .05.

^cAnterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament, lateral collateral ligament, posterolateral corner.

^dNeural injury, arterial injury, fracture, tendon rupture.

sports, and 5 (2%) with unknown activity at the time of injury. Baseline characteristics of the groups injured in sports and other activity showed no significant differences except for a higher proportion of women in the sports group. Complete baseline data are shown in Table 2.

The crude mean KOOS scores at 2-year follow-up for those injured during sports and those injured during other activities are shown in Table 3. Patients injured during sports reported significantly better 2-year outcomes after PCLR than patients injured during other activities according to all KOOS subscales (*P* < .05 for all) (Figure 1).

In the unadjusted and adjusted linear regression analyses, injury during sports was associated with significantly better outcome than injury during other activities, per all KOOS subscales (*P* < .05 for all). The adjusted effects of injury during sports ranged from 7.0 points (95% CI, 1.9-

TABLE 3
Crude Mean KOOS at 2-Year Follow-up after PCL
Reconstruction by Injury Activity^a

KOOS Subscale	Patients Injured During Sports (n = 137)		Patients Injured During Activities Other Than Sports (n = 109 or 110) ^b	
	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI
Pain	77.4	74.2-80.6	64.4	60.0-68.8
Symptoms	68.3	65.0-71.6	62.0	58.1-65.8
ADL	83.2	79.8-86.6	71.4	67.0-75.9
Sport/Recreation	45.0	40.1-49.9	30.6	25.6-30.5
QoL	55.3	51.2-59.4	42.0	37.3-46.7

^aADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bSample sizes differ since valid data were not available for some of the subscales.

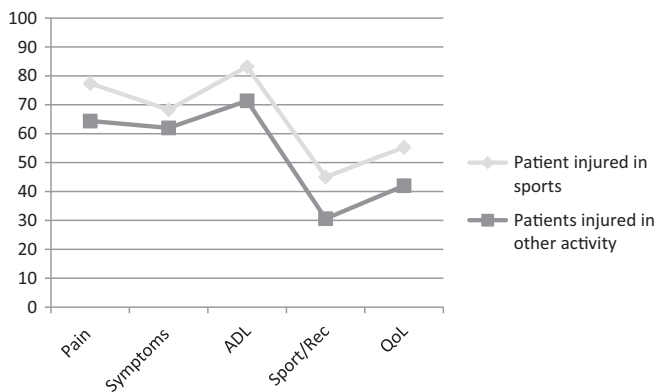


Figure 1. KOOS scores by injury activity 2 years postoperatively. ADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; QoL, Quality of Life; Sport/Rec, Sport/Recreation.

12.2 points) in the KOOS Symptoms subscale to 15.3 points (95% CI, 8.0-22.5 points) in the Sport/Recreation subscale (Table 4).

Multiligament Injuries

The study population comprised 79 (31%) isolated PCL injuries and 173 (69%) multiligament injuries. Baseline characteristics of these 2 groups are shown in Table 5. Among female patients, there were more with isolated injuries than multiligament injuries: 46% (95% CI, 37.1%-54.8%) versus 31% (95% CI, 25.3%-36.7%). The delay to surgery was longer for isolated injuries than for multiligament injuries, at a mean of 3.1 years (95% CI, 2.5-3.8 years) versus 1.1 years (95% CI, 0.8-1.4 years). Injuries to the menisci were more frequent among the multiligament injuries than the isolated injuries, with a proportion of 30% (95% CI, 24.3%-35.7%) versus 14% (95% CI, 7.8%-20.1%).

Apart from these areas, the isolated injuries and multiligament injuries were similar at baseline (Table 5).

The crude mean KOOS values at 2-year follow-up for those with isolated PCL injury and those with multiligament injury are shown in Table 6. Patients with multiligament injuries had KOOS scores similar to those with isolated PCL injuries at 2-year follow-up (Figure 2).

In the linear regression analyses, no significant associations were detected between multiligament injury and KOOS scores in any of the subscales, in neither the unadjusted nor the adjusted analyses, except for the Sport/Recreation subscale, where the patients with isolated PCL injury scored 7.9 points (95% CI, 0.3-15.5 points; $P = .042$) better in the unadjusted analysis (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

The first important finding in this study is that sport injuries have a positive effect on patient-reported outcome following PCLR. This is new and clinically relevant information. In the adjusted analysis, patients injured in sports scored 7.0 to 15.3 points better than those injured in other activities. This was a clinically relevant and statistically significant finding for all KOOS subscales except the Symptom subscale. The most significant differences were in the Sport/Recreation and Quality of Life subscales, which are also the most relevant subscales when evaluating these types of injuries.

We can speculate why patients injured in sports have better outcomes. It possibly has something to do with better baseline fitness and health. Athletes may also have better access to rehabilitation and may be more compliant with their rehabilitation protocols. Athletes are accustomed to, and normally have time to do, their training every day. They are often in the care of physical therapists or athletic trainers with experience in treating sports-related injuries. We did not differentiate among types of sports in this study. As a consequence, there may be significant differences related to the amount of energy involved in the injury that our material did not detect. It could also be that there were a greater number of multiligament injuries among those injured in traffic- or work-related accidents, but this was not statistically significant for our material (Table 5). If there were such a difference, it should not influence the outcomes if we consider the second important finding in this study: patients treated for multiligament injuries had outcomes similar to those treated for an isolated PCL injury. What makes this finding more interesting is that injuries to the menisci were more frequent in multiligament-injured knees in our study than in existing literature.^{10,18} This is theoretically not in favor of those with multiligament injuries, as supported by 1 study showing a negative effect on patient-reported outcome from cartilage and meniscal injuries in multiligament injuries.¹⁰

As with our material, some previous studies have reported good or excellent outcomes following multiligament injuries.^{8,9,28} This finding is in part difficult to explain. Regarding the effect of cartilage and meniscal lesions, it has previously been shown that the patient-

TABLE 4
Regression Analyses of the Effect of Activity at Time of Injury and Multiligament Injury on KOOS Scores at 2-Year Follow-up^a

KOOS Subscale	Injury During Sports ^b				Multiligament Injury ^c			
	n	β	95% CI	P Value	n	β	95% CI	P Value
Pain								
Unadjusted	247	13.0	7.7 to 18.3	<.001	252	-2.1	-7.9 to 3.8	.484
Adjusted	234	13.4	8.0 to 18.9	<.001	234	1.8	-4.5 to 8.0	.576
Symptoms								
Unadjusted	246	6.4	1.3 to 11.4	.013	251	-0.1	-5.4 to 5.3	.978
Adjusted	233	7.0	1.9 to 12.2	.008	233	2.9	-3.0 to 8.8	.331
ADL								
Unadjusted	247	11.8	6.3 to 17.3	<.001	252	-4.9	-10.8 to 1.0	.105
Adjusted	234	12.6	7.1 to 18.1	<.001	234	0.8	-5.4 to 7.1	.797
Sport/Recreation								
Unadjusted	246	14.4	7.4 to 21.5	<.001	251	-7.9	-15.5 to -0.3	.042
Adjusted	233	15.3	8.0 to 22.5	<.001	233	-3.7	-12.1 to 4.7	.385
QoL								
Unadjusted	247	13.3	7.1 to 19.5	<.001	252	-5.2	-11.9 to 1.6	.132
Adjusted	234	13.5	7.1 to 20.0	<.001	234	-2.6	-10.0 to 4.8	.495

^aAdjusted for sex, age, time from injury to surgery, concomitant meniscal lesions, concomitant cartilage lesions, concomitant neural injury/arterial injury/fracture/tendon rupture, and type of PCL graft. ADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bOther activity than sports at time of injury used as reference.

^cIsolated PCL injury used as reference.

reported outcome for ACL injuries with concomitant meniscal lesions and superficial cartilage lesions is equal to that without such lesions.^{12,24,30} It might, of course, be that the outcome changes over a longer period of follow-up. One previous study showed that cartilage lesions had no significant effect on outcome at 5 and 9 years after ACL reconstruction.³⁰ In the present study, the frequencies of cartilage injuries were equal between isolated and multiligament injuries (Table 5). It seems likely that the main problem is injury to the ligaments, with PCL injury predicting worse outcome than injury to the other ligaments.

Previous studies have also reported inferior outcomes after PCL versus ACL reconstruction.^{17,19,21} This indicates that injuries involving the PCL predict a worse outcome than do other ligament injuries. Even so, it is difficult to explain why patients with multiligament injuries report outcomes similar to those of patients with isolated PCL injuries. Time from injury to surgery is longer for the isolated PCL injuries, and this may be part of the explanation. Another important fact is a limitation to the KOOS score. The questionnaire contains no questions regarding change in physical requirements over time. One could speculate that patients with multiligament injuries changed their activities to something less demanding and, as such, had satisfactory scores in the Sport/Recreation and Quality of Life subscales because of lower demand. Better methods of reconstruction and perhaps careful selection of patients are needed to improve the outcome following PCLR and multiligament injuries involving the PCL.

Limitations to this study include the use of registry data. Only those injuries treated surgically are registered, however many isolated PCL injuries are treated nonoperatively.

This probably means that only those with the most serious isolated PCL injuries are registered. There was also a 32% loss to follow-up at 2 years. However, those included and those lost to follow-up had similar characteristics, except for younger age and more men among those lost to follow-up. This was also found in other studies.^{1,18} Another possible weakness is the lack of objective measures, as the KOOS was the only available outcome measure and it was perhaps insufficient for a total evaluation of outcome. However, the KOOS is reliable and valid in evaluating knee injuries, including injuries to ligaments, according to previous studies.^{2,22} Additionally, in sports, an important outcome is the number of athletes who return to their preinjury activity levels. This is a main parameter that was not available in our material. Information about weight, body mass index, and smoking status is not available, and so far, we have few patients treated with double-bundle reconstruction with 2-year follow-up data. These are examples of variables that might affect outcome in either direction. Finally, in our material, there was a long time from injury to reconstruction. This may have led to a higher number of meniscal and full-thickness cartilage lesions, but it should be equal for both groups.

With the use of multiple regression analysis, there is a chance of more or less important confounders that were not included in the analysis. These can have effects on the result in either direction. Interesting confounders, such as body mass index and activity level, were not included, as these are not available from the Norwegian Knee Ligament Registry. The factors adjusted for in our analysis—age, sex, time from injury to surgery, concomitant meniscal

TABLE 5
Baseline Characteristics of Patients Undergoing PCL Reconstruction by Isolated or Multiligament Injury^a

	Isolated PCL Injury (n ₁ = 122)	Multiligament Injury ^b (n ₂ = 251)
Age at surgery, y, median (range)	29 (14 to 59)	36 (15 to 67)
Time from injury to surgery, mo, median (range)	36 (0 to 240)	12 (0 to 228)
Sex: % female (95% CI)	46 (37.1 to 54.8)	31 (25.3 to 36.7)
Activity at time of injury, % of patients (95% CI)		
Sports	47 (38.1 to 55.9)	51 (44.8 to 57.2)
Other than sports	51 (42.1 to 59.9)	47 (40.8 to 53.2)
Unknown	2 (-0.5 to 4.5)	2 (0.3 to 3.7)
Concomitant, % of patients (95% CI)		
Meniscal lesion	14 (7.8 to 20.1)	30 (24.3 to 35.7)
Cartilage lesion	35 (26.5 to 43.4)	38 (32.0 to 44.0)
Other injury ^c	1 (-0.8 to 2.8)	9 (5.5 to 12.5)
PCL graft, % of patients (95% CI)		
Hamstrings	76 (68.4 to 83.6)	65 (59.1 to 70.9)
Other	24 (16.4 to 31.6)	30 (24.3 to 35.7)
Unknown	0	5 (2.3 to 7.7)
	n ₃	n ₄
KOOS, preoperative, mean ± SD		
Pain (n ₃ = 106, n ₄ = 146)	58.4 ± 17.6	64.6 ± 23.0
Symptoms (n ₃ = 107, n ₄ = 149)	65.2 ± 16.7	67.3 ± 18.7
ADL (n ₃ = 105, n ₄ = 144)	68.1 ± 18.3	67.8 ± 25.1
Sport/Recreation (n ₃ = 106, n ₄ = 143)	27.2 ± 22.4	26.3 ± 28.0
QoL (n ₃ = 106, n ₄ = 146)	27.7 ± 14.0	29.4 ± 23.3

^aADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bAnterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament, lateral collateral ligament, posterolateral corner.

^cNeural injury, arterial injury, fracture, tendon rupture.

lesions, concomitant cartilage lesions, concomitant neural injury/arterial injury/fracture/tendon rupture, and type of PCL graft—were chosen from what is important in such injuries from clinical experience and existing literature. The importance of activity level on patient-reported outcome is clear for all subscales, and it is less likely that other confounders will change the results significantly.

The clinical implication of this study is that we should have a lower threshold for PCLR regarding patients injured in sports and inform them that they can expect a better result compared with patients injured in other activities. Patients can be informed that the expected outcome of

TABLE 6
Crude Mean KOOS at 2-Year Follow-up After PCL Reconstruction by Isolated PCL Injury and Multiligament Injury^a

KOOS Subscale	Patients With Isolated PCL Injury (n = 79)		Patients With Multiligament Injury (n = 172 or 173) ^b	
	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI
Pain	73.1	68.5-77.6	71.0	67.6-74.4
Symptoms	65.7	61.0-70.4	65.6	62.7-68.6
ADL	81.5	77.3-85.8	76.6	73.1-80.1
Sport/Recreation	44.2	37.8-50.6	36.3	32.0-40.5
QoL	53.1	47.7-58.5	47.9	44.1-51.8

^aMultiligament injury: PCL injury combined with other ligament injury (anterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament, lateral collateral ligament, and/or posterolateral corner). ADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life.

^bSample sizes differ since valid data were not available for some of the subscales.

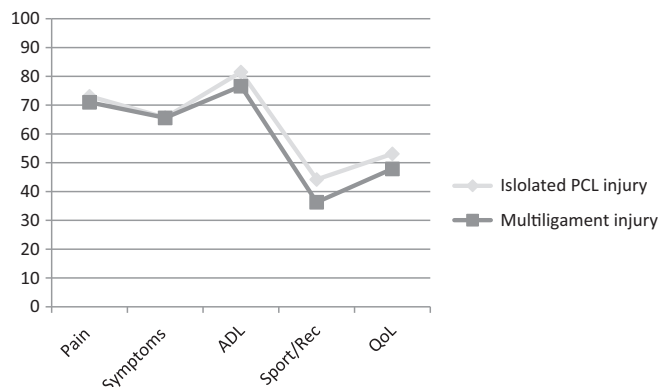


Figure 2. KOOS scores 2 years postoperatively. ADL, Activities of Daily Living; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; PCL, posterior cruciate ligament; QoL, Quality of Life; Sport/Rec, Sport/Recreation.

PCLR injury is not necessarily worse in the case of multiligament injuries but that it might reduce their chances for return to preinjury activity levels.

CONCLUSION

Patients injured in sports reported better outcomes after PCLR at 2 years as compared with patients injured in other activities. Multiligament injuries involving the PCL did not predict a worse outcome than isolated PCL injuries.

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