

Suturation of a meniscus tear using keyhole surgery

A small tear of the meniscus is usually treated by removing the torn area. Some tears of the meniscus are extensive and require suturing. Removing the whole meniscus would cause a risk of arthritis. Symptoms of an extensive tear of the meniscus are pain and locking.

Procedure

The operation **is performed using keyhole surgery** through small incisions ([arthroscopy](#)), operation **is usually performed under spinal anaesthesia**. An extensive meniscal tear is sutured, if technically possible, depending on the type of the damage. The torn edges are sewn together by using absorbable arrows and screws, and certain suturing techniques, if necessary.

Rehabilitation

Essential to the healing process is to efficiently restore the strength of the quadriceps muscles. For that reason, movement exercises of the knee are required from the very beginning. Crutches are used for 4–5 weeks. During these weeks you must not put any weight on the weak leg except its own. However, you may put full body weight on the leg, if the knee is held fully straight. The knee may be swollen, causing the knee to feel stiffer than usual. **It is important to move your ankle and toes to avoid deep vein thrombosis.** See the [rehabilitation guide](#) (pdf file in Finnish).

Wound care

The dressings may be removed after 24 hours, and you may shower. Elastic bandage may be used for about a week to support the knee. The sutures are removed after 7–12 days at your health centre, occupational health centre, or health clinic (neuvola) (date ____/____). You may go to sauna 24 hours after the removal of the sutures.

Treatment of pain

Regular pain relief medication, elevated position, elastic bandage, and ice pack therapy efficiently reduce swelling and pain after the operation, contributing to the recovery. It is **recommended that you take pain killers regularly for 2–4 days** and after that when necessary:

Paracetamol

Anti-inflammatory

Strong painkiller

Other medication

Follow-up visit is with the physician 4 weeks after the surgery.

Sick leave is 5 weeks from the surgery.

Contact us

If you experience inflammatory symptoms (increasing pain, heavy swelling, warmth, redness, continuous wound discharge) or other problems, contact your health centre or treating unit.

Day Surgery Unit A2 on working days from 07.00–17.00 tel. **(06) 323 1552**

Emergency Department at other times tel. **(06) 323 1311**

Your own health centre or occupational health centre

We wish you happy healing!