

Systematic Review of Fixed- Versus Adjustable-Loop Femoral Cortical Suspension Devices for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: Response

Authors' Response:

We thank the authors of the letter for their interest in our manuscript, "Fixed- Versus Adjustable-Loop Femoral Cortical Suspension Devices for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Biomechanical Studies."³ We appreciate the opportunity to respond to their concerns.

First, we performed our systematic review using the PubMed, EMBASE, and Cochrane Library databases, which is a recommended combination of databases for performing systematic reviews.⁷ The study by Chang et al¹ was published online ahead of print on November 13, 2017, and therefore was included in our search up to November 20, 2017. The other 2 articles^{2,6} published in 2018 and mentioned in the letter were not published online before our search date. The articles by Kamelger et al⁴ and Noonan et al⁵ were not included in our systematic review, as their biomechanical testing protocols differed substantially from the included studies.

As mentioned in the Discussion section of our article, we recognize that the high level of heterogeneity of this meta-analysis (based on specimen type, fixation devices, and biomechanical testing protocols) is a significant limitation of this study. Additionally, we acknowledge the limitation of not distinguishing the results based on isolated device versus specimen testing setup. Results were combined in order to net a larger sample size for analysis. Although this factor limits the conclusions that can be drawn from this study, the results of this study provide insight into the advantages and disadvantages of these different devices and prompt further clinical studies on this topic.

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