

# The Pivot Shift Test, Its Diagnostic Role In Meniscus Injuries: A Case Report

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## INTRODUCTION:

A myriad of clinical tests for ACL instability has been described in the literature. Three of the most commonly applied tests are the anterior drawer, Lachman, and the pivot shift test (1).

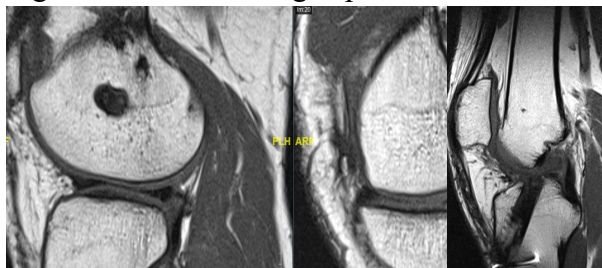
Studies have found that many patients experience pain with a click when performing the pivot shift test and later found that at arthroscopy these patients had meniscal lesions. The diagnostic value of the axially loaded pivot shift test was significantly higher in diagnosing meniscus pathology as compared to the conventional McMurray and Apley test, indicating that this remains a useful diagnostic aid (2).

## CASE REPORT

Mr KMS, a 32-year-old gentleman who had an ACL reconstruction to his right knee in 2011, which subsequently failed, underwent a revision surgery in 2014. He presented to us with right knee instability after a pivoting injury while playing football in 2016. He had a high-grade positive pivot shift test and was diagnosed to have a failed ACL graft and was planned for surgery.

He underwent surgery in October 2018. Intraoperatively we discovered that he had a bucket handle tear of his medial meniscus, which was successfully repaired.

Figure 1: MRI image prior to revision



surgery showing the medial and lateral meniscus and the reconstructed ACL graft

## CONCLUSION:

Newer studies have showed that the pivot shift test is more sensitive in picking up a meniscus injury as opposed to an ACL laxity as originally intended. As mentioned earlier, the high-grade positive pivot shift test in this patient was positive which presumably is due to the fact that he had a posterior horn medial meniscus tear on top of an ACL tear

## REFERENCES:

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2. Kurosaka M, Yagi M, Yoshiya S, Muratsu H, Mizuno K.(1999) Efficacy of the axially loaded pivot shift test for the diagnosis of a meniscal tear *Int Orthop*. 1999;23(5):271-4.