

Young athletes at greater risk for re-injury after ACL Surgery

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One in three young athletes who undergo ACL surgery experiences re-injury, according to research presented today at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine's (AOSSM) Specialty Day. The study examined the long term success of surgery for patients aged 18 years and younger.

"We examined [survey data](#) from 242 patients who underwent ACL reconstruction between 1993 and 1998," noted lead author Justin P. Roe, MBBS, FRACS, from North Sydney Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Centre. "Of this group, 75, or 31% sustained a further injury after at least 15 years."

The study group consisted of 104 females and 138 males at a mean age of 16 years. A total of 168 (69%) reported returning to their pre-injury level of activity following surgery.

"Our study shows that young knees are more prone to re-injury than the adult population when compared to other research in this area - and is the first study to examine the incidence and risk factors for further ACL injury in a solely juvenile population over the long term," commented Roe. "While [surgery](#) still may be the best option for many ACL injuries, it brings to light the important factors physicians must consider when treating the younger population."

Rugby or soccer was reported as the sport of choice for 48% of the injured athletes participating in the study.

Provided by American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

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