

# TKA: Tips and Tricks

## COA Meeting 2021

Erik Hansen MD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
University of California, San Francisco

# Disclosures

---

- **Corin- Product Development**





It's much easier to stay out of  
trouble now than to get out of  
trouble later.

— *Warren Buffett* —

AZ QUOTES

# HOW TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

# Outline

---

- **Pre-op**
- **Intra-op**
- **Post-op**



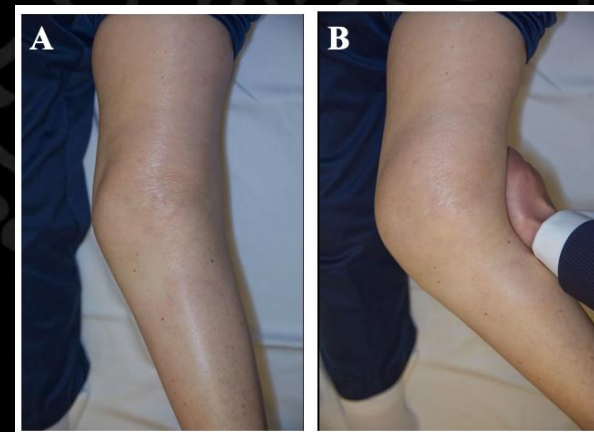
---

# PRE-OPERATIVE



# Clinical Exam

- **Coronal deformity**
- **Sagittal issues**
- **Stiffness**
- **Prior incisions**



# Sagittal Issues

## Flexion Contracture



## Extensor Lag



## Recurvatum



# Stiffness

---

**Flexion Contracture**



**Limited Flexion**



**Best predictor of postop ROM is preop ROM**



# Radiographic “red flags”

- **Joint space ‘widening’**
- **Patella baja**
- **Patella subluxation**
- **Diminutive patella**
- **Retained hardware**
- **Fracture malunion**
- **Severe osteopenia**
- **Charcot arthropathy**



# Joint Space "Widening"



**VS**



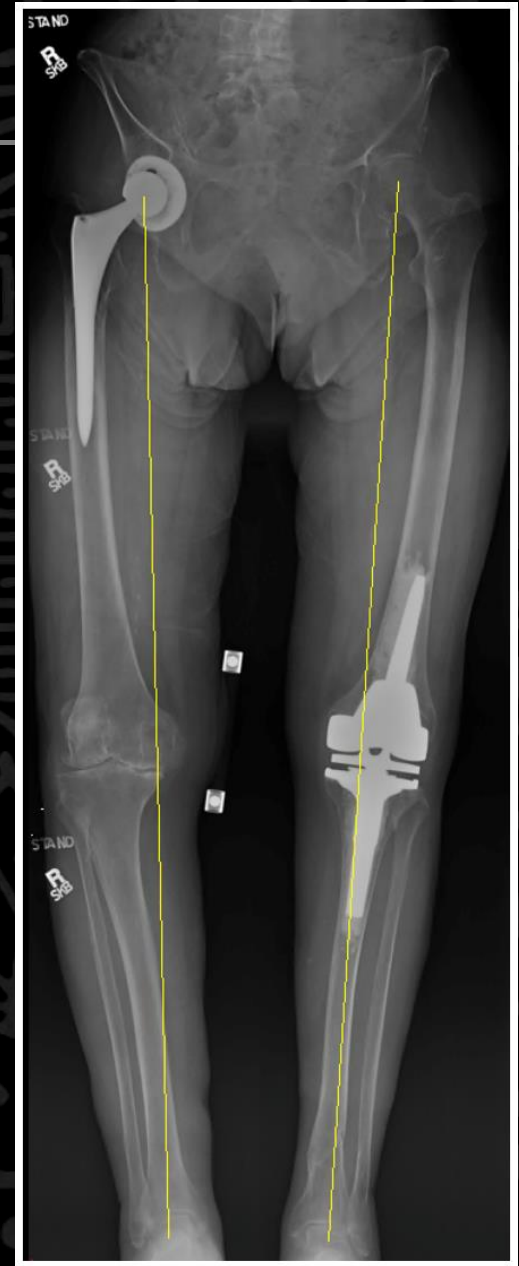
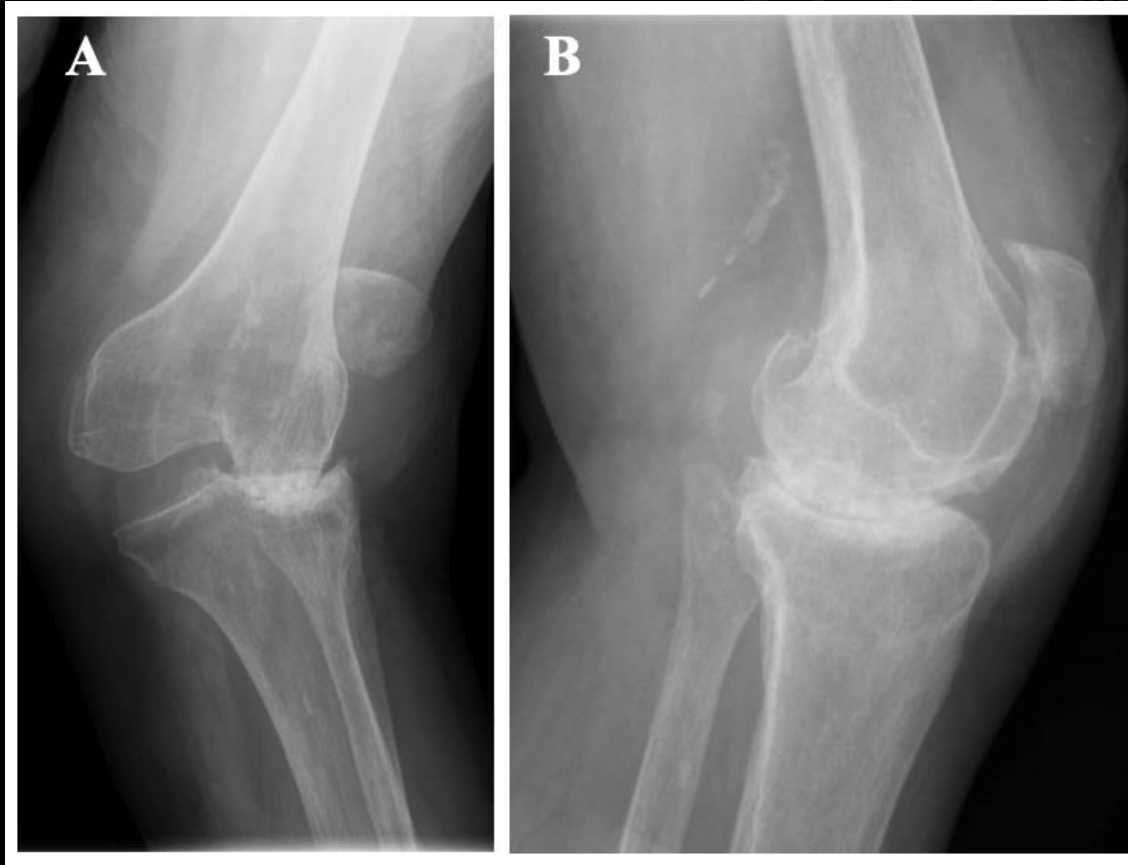
**Level of constraint?**



# Joint Space "Widening"



# Joint Space "Widening"



# Patella Baja



**Exposure strategies**  
**Patellar tracking**



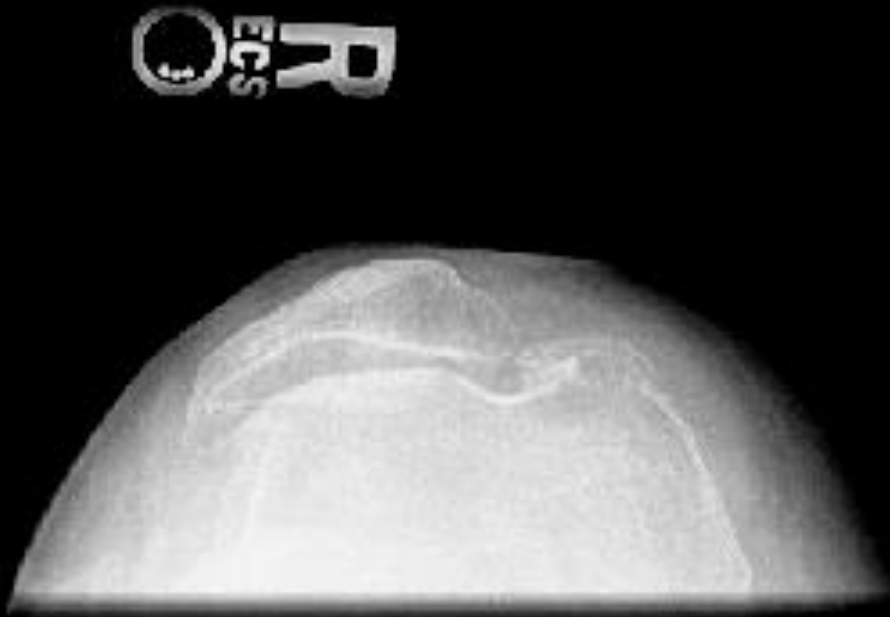
# Patella Subluxation



**Optimizing Q angle**



# Diminutive Patella



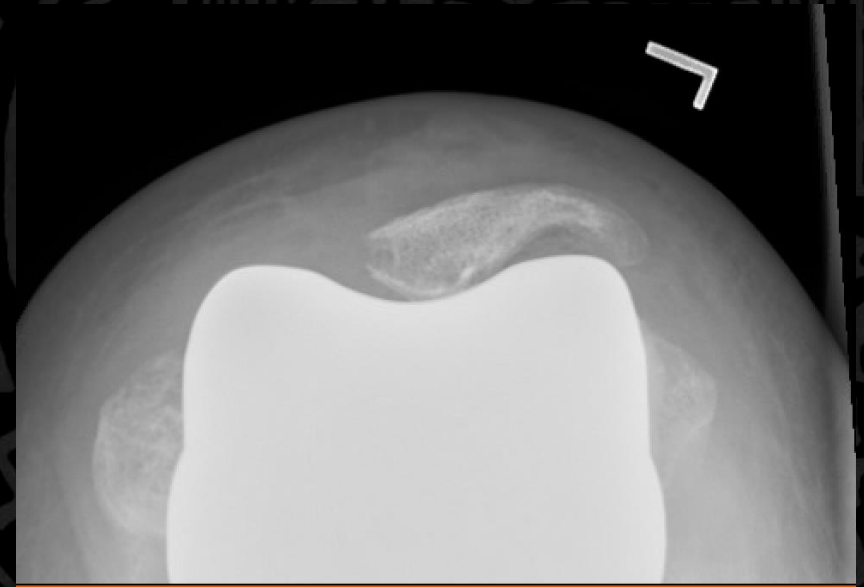
**Resurface or not?**



# Diminutive Patella



# Diminutive Patella



# Bony Malunion



**Correcting alignment  
Through/distal to joint?**

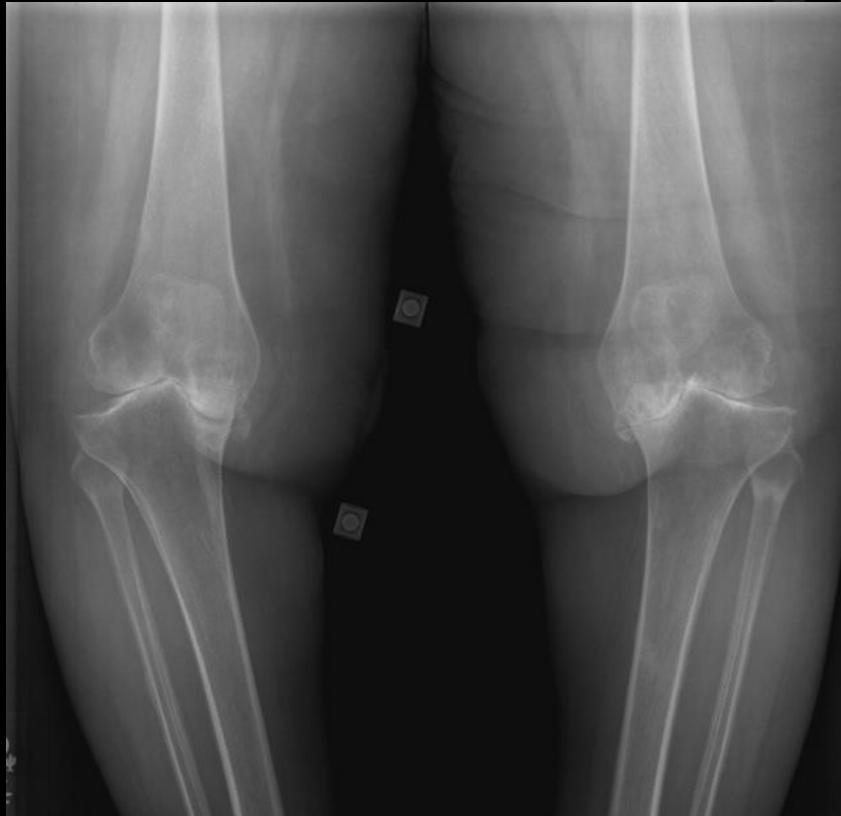


# Retained Hardware



**Need for removal?  
Distal femoral cut?  
Implication for  
ligamentous stability?**

# Osteopenia



**Risk of ppx fracture**  
**Fixation of implant**

# Charcot Arthropathy



**TKA or not?  
If so, then hinge**



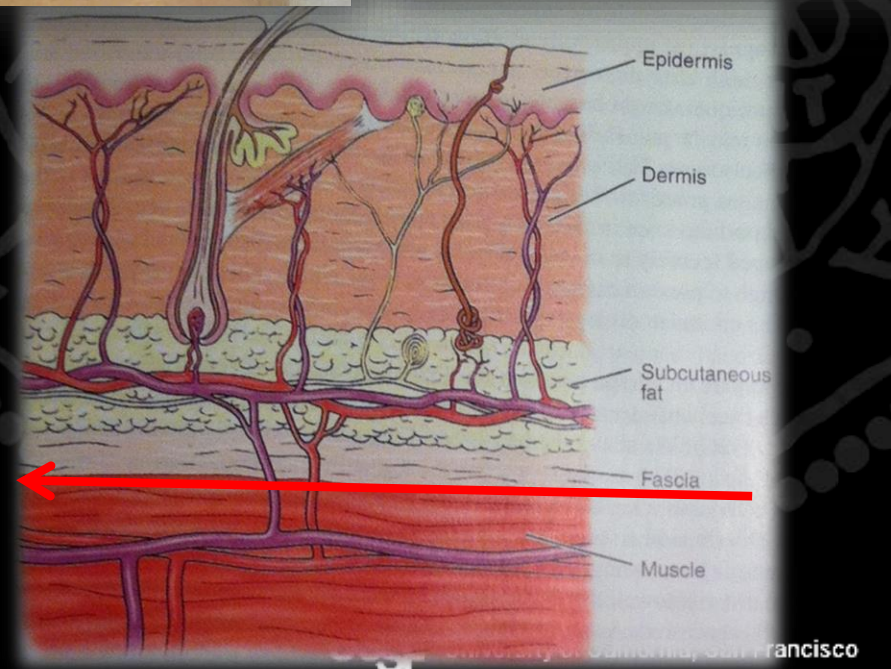
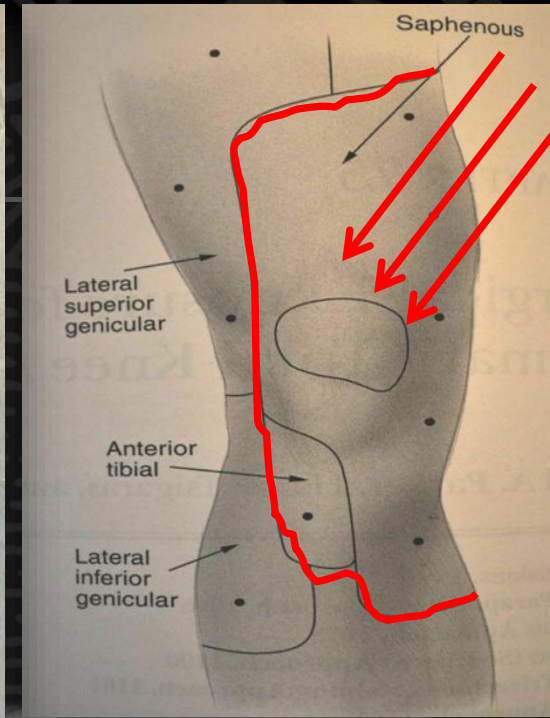
---

# INTRA-OPERATIVE



# Exposure

- Use prior incision
  - lateral most preferred
- If unable to use prior incision, leave  $> 6\text{cm}$  skin bridge
- Full thickness flaps
  - “no fat left on fascia”

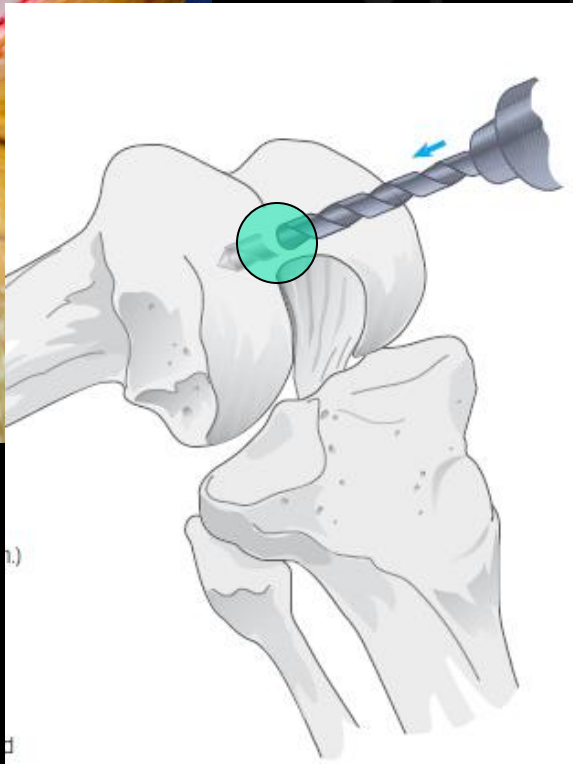
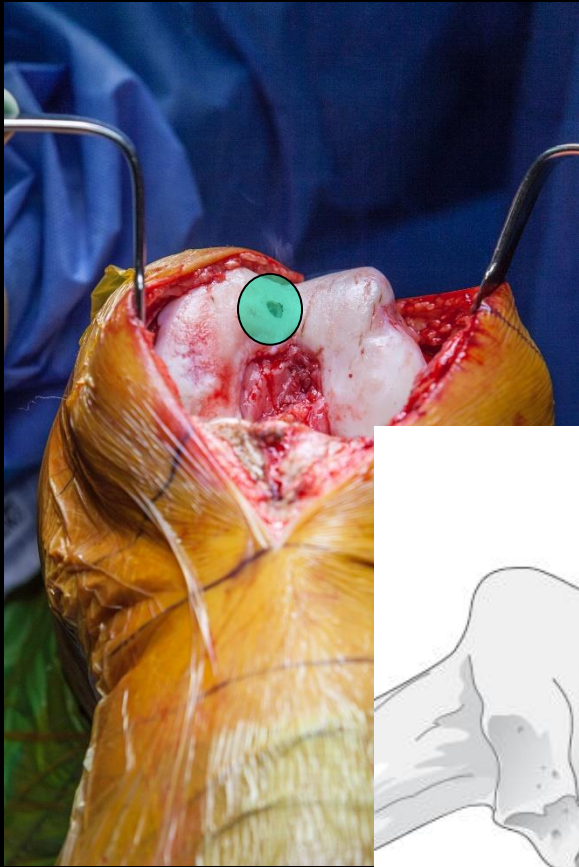




# Incisions



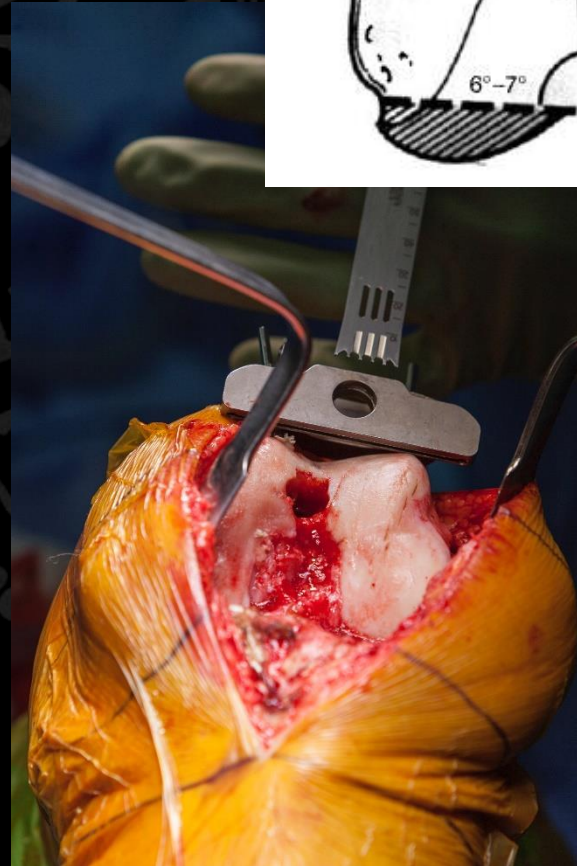
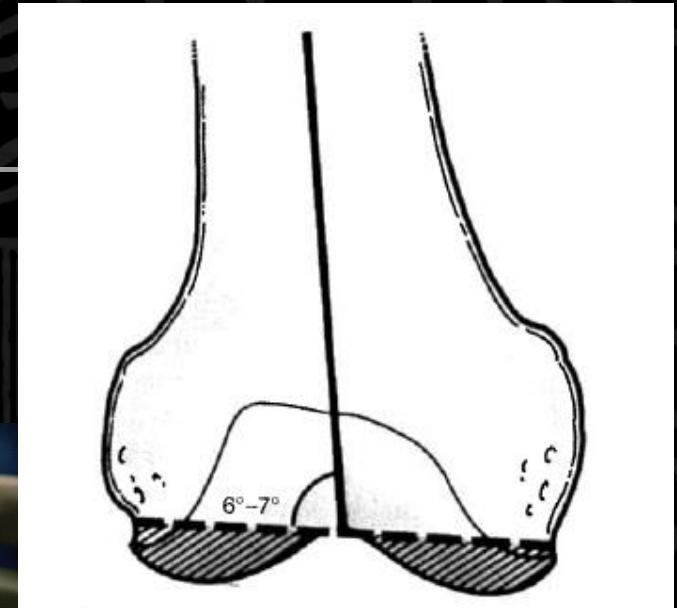
# Distal Femoral Cut



- **Entry point**
- **“Over-drilling”**
- **Irrigation/evacuation**
- **5-7° Valgus**

# Distal Femoral Cut

- Protect collaterals
- Start less sclerotic side
- Sulcus of distal femur
- Flexion contracture-extra distal femur
  - Mindful of raising joint line





# When an IM nail isn't feasible

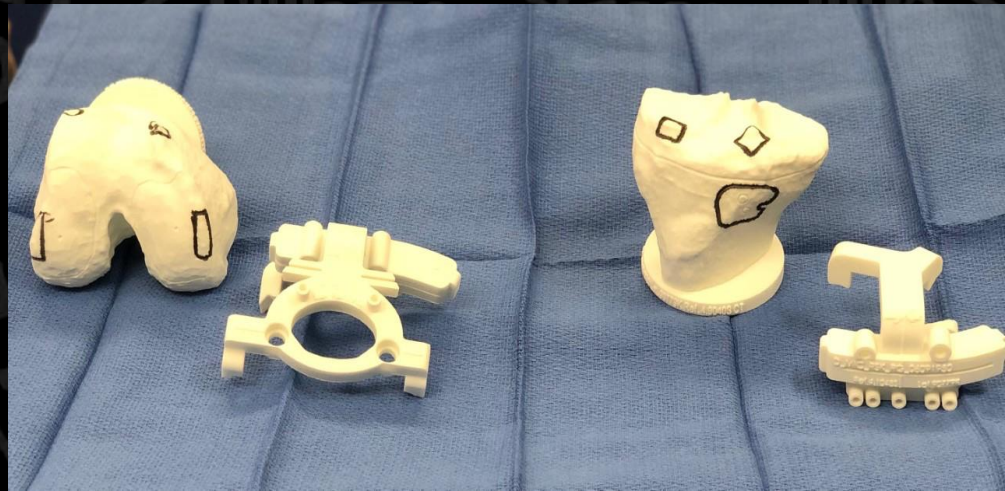
- **Accelerometer**
- **Custom cutting blocks**
- **Navigation**
- **Robots**
- **Extramedullary alignment (historical)**





# When an IM nail isn't feasible

- Accelerometer
- Custom cutting blocks
- Navigation
- Robots
- Extramedullary alignment (historical)



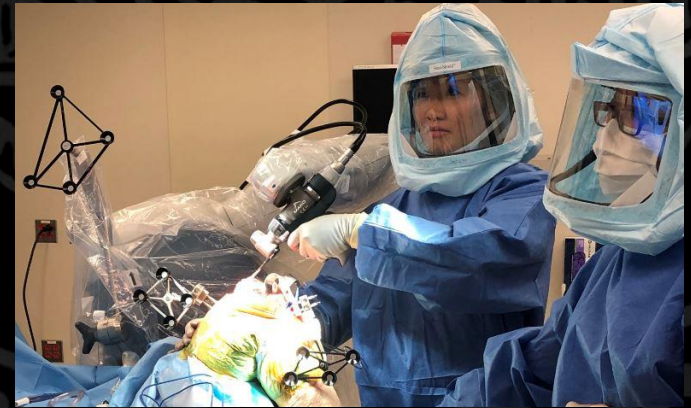
# When an IM nail isn't feasible

- Accelerometer
- Custom cutting blocks
- **Navigation**
- Robots
- Extramedullary alignment (historical)



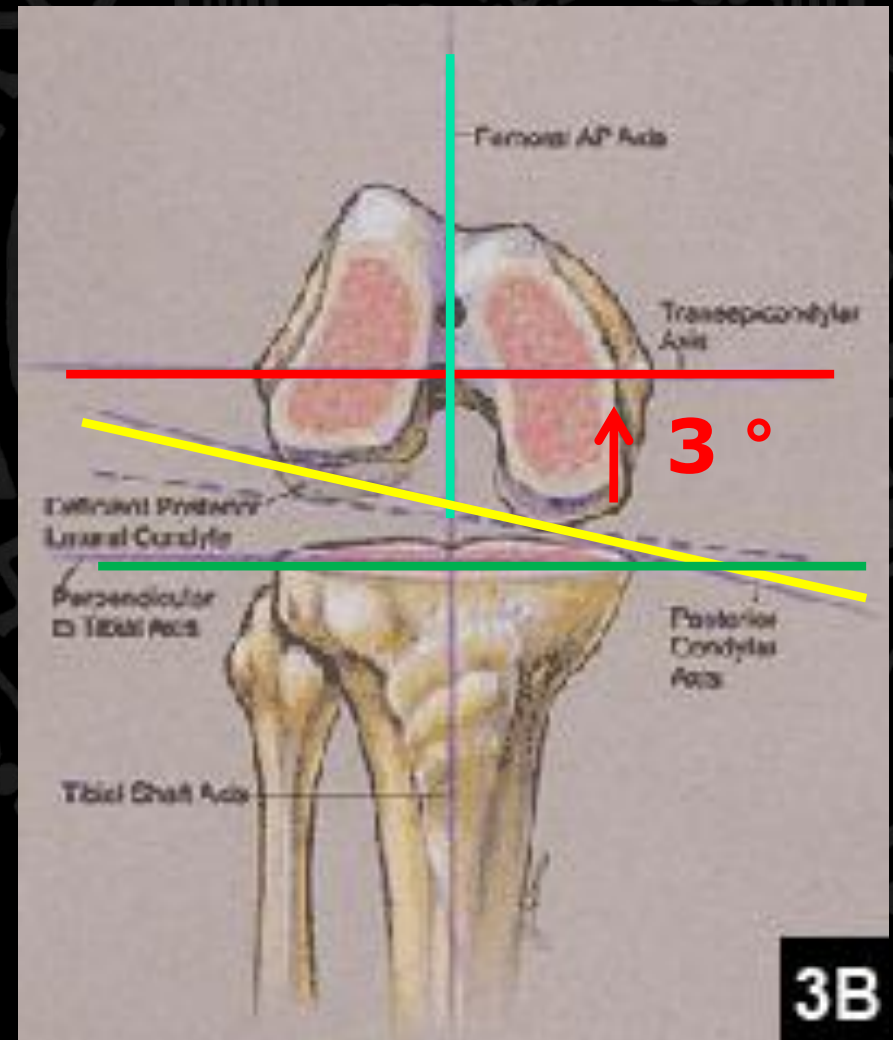
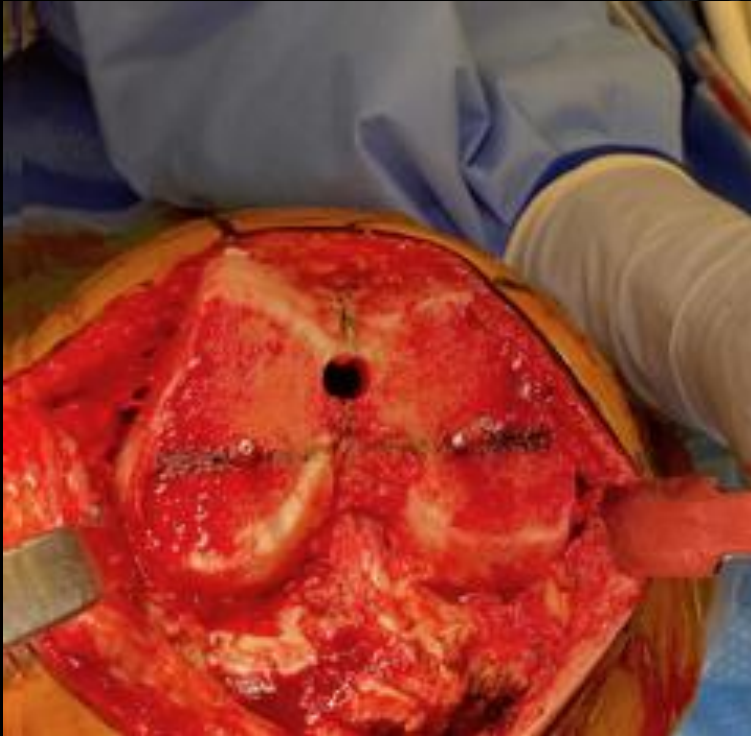
# When an IM nail isn't feasible

- Accelerometer
- Custom cutting blocks
- Navigation
- **Robots**
- Extramedullary alignment (historical)





# Setting Rotation: Drawing the Axes

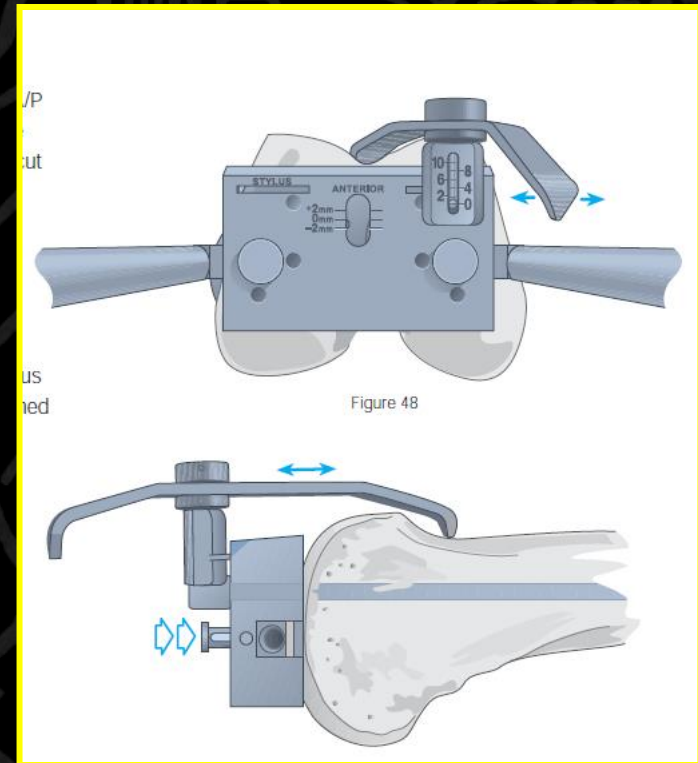


3B



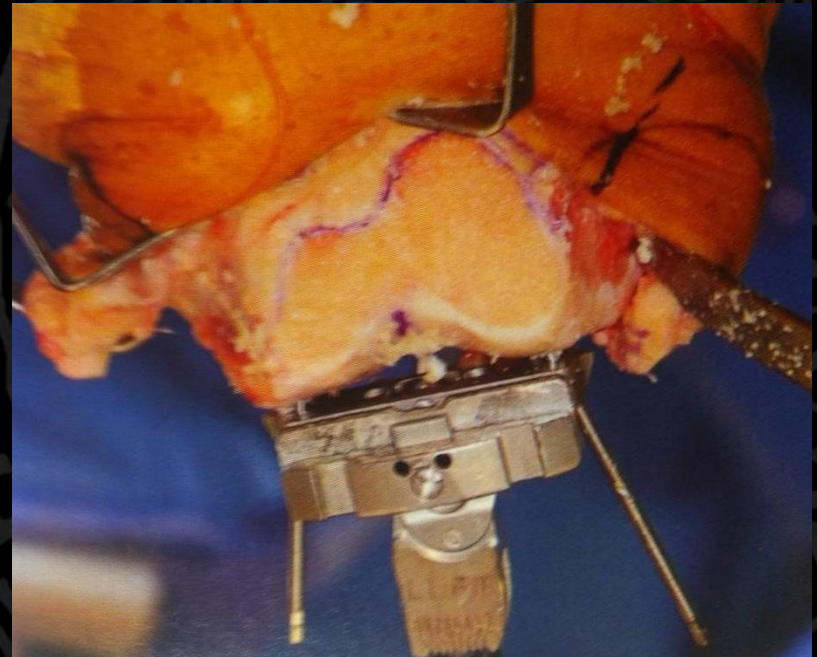
# Sizing/ Rotation

- Reference the anterolateral femur "high side"
- In between sizes?
  - Upsize initially
  - ~3mm/ size



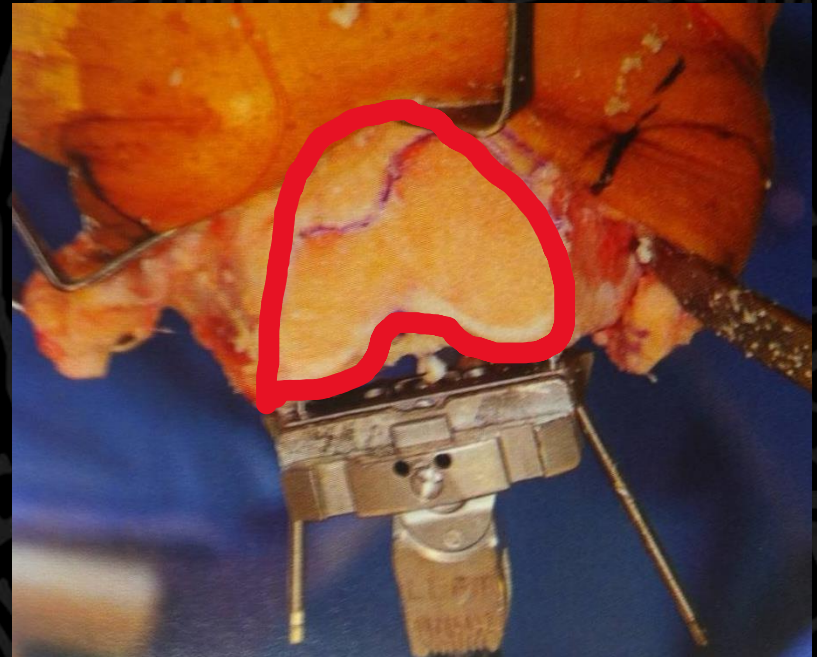
# The "Grand Piano" Sign

- Proxy for appropriate rotation
- Preventing "Notching"
  - Start cut medially
  - Stop short
  - "not the end of the world"



# The "Grand Piano" Sign

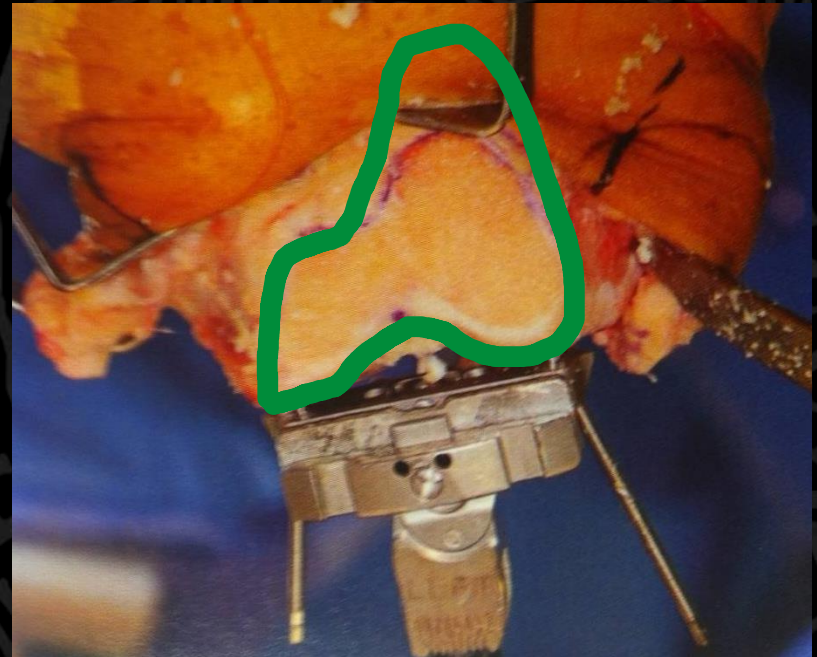
- Proxy for appropriate rotation
- Preventing "Notching"
  - Start cut medially
  - Stop short
  - "not the end of the world"



Internal Rotation

# The "Grand Piano" Sign

- Proxy for appropriate rotation
- Preventing "Notching"
  - Start cut medially
  - Stop short
  - "not the end of the world"



**External Rotation**



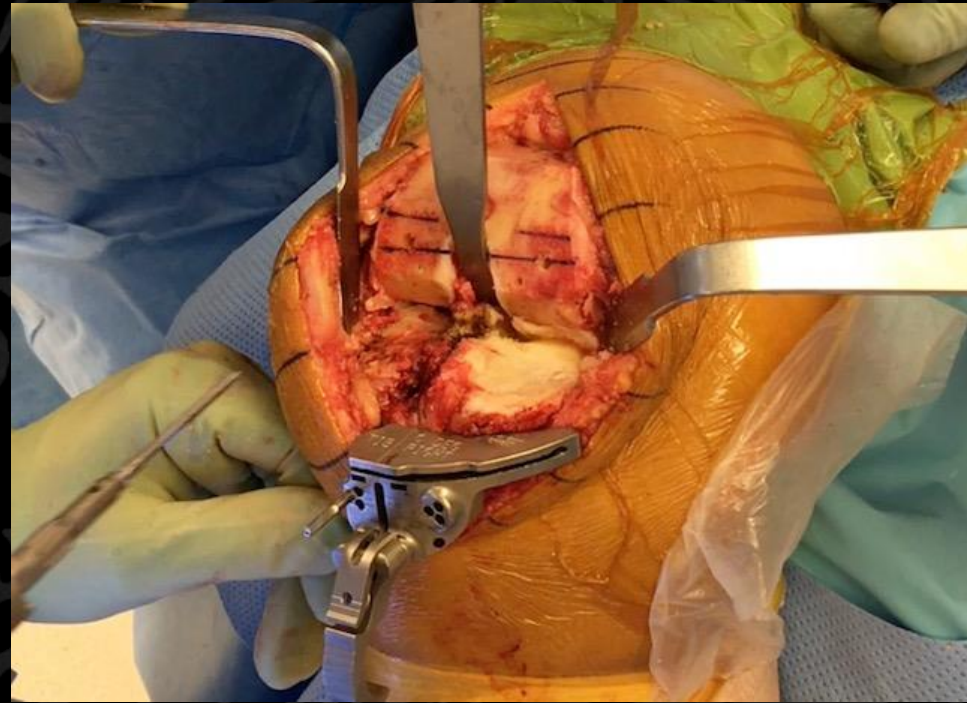
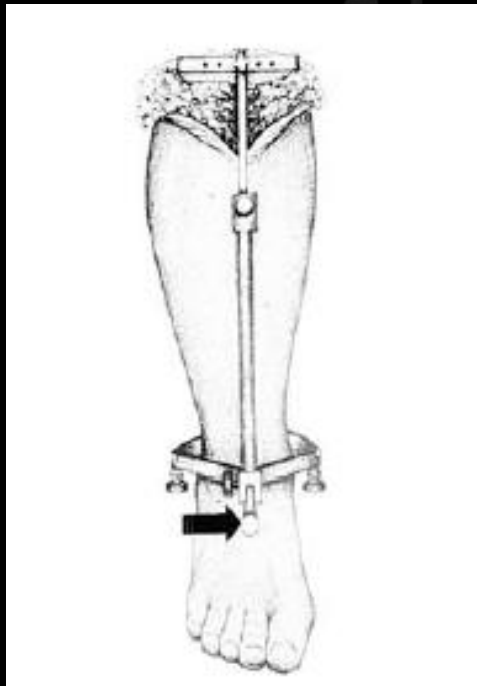
# Proximal tibial cut

---

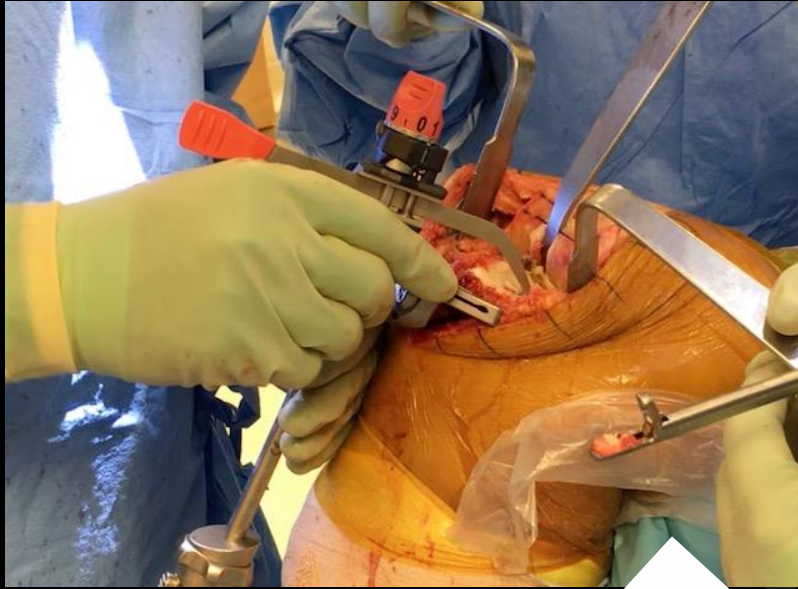
- **“Measure Thrice, cut Once”**
  - **Coronal**
  - **Sagittal**
  - **Depth**
  
- **“Double Check”**
  - **Inspect bony resection**
  - **Drop rod**

# 1. Coronal Alignment

- Draw AP axis
- Perpendicular to mechanical/ anatomic axis



## 2. Sagittal Alignment



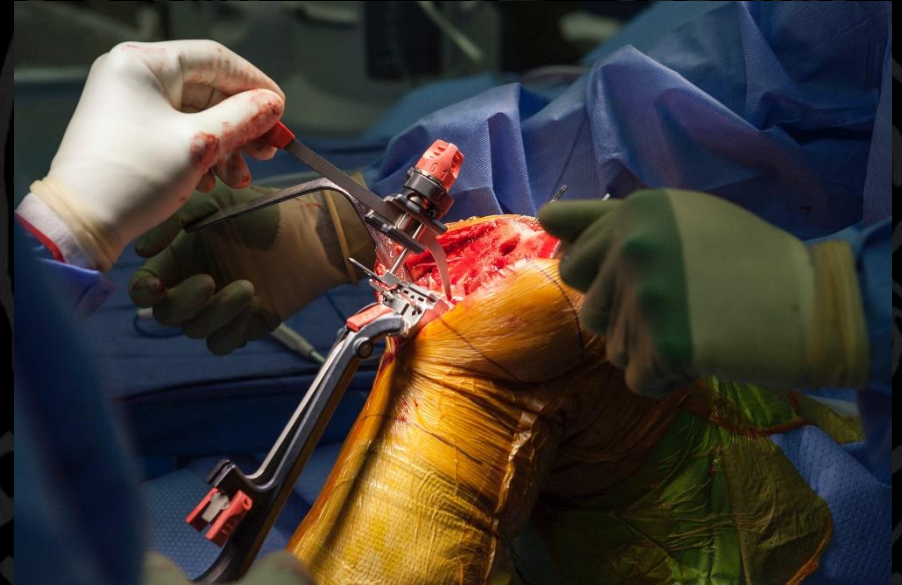
- First, check Lateral X-rays for native slope
- Determine your goal
  - PS vs CR
- Swoosh the proximal tibia
  - Caution w/ 3-2 finger technique





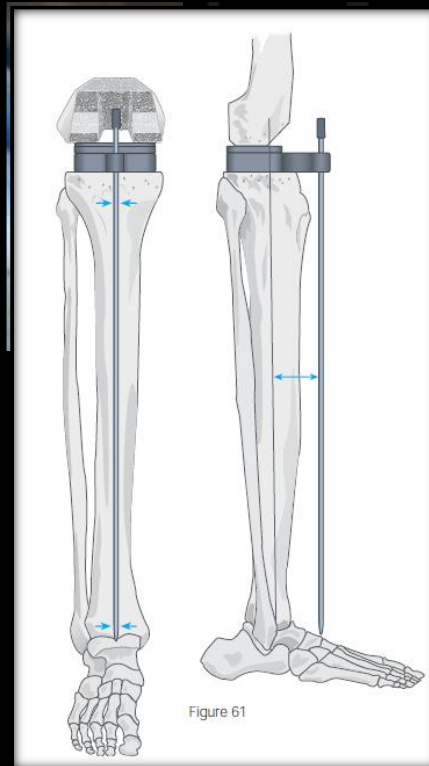
# 3. Depth of Resection

- 2 / 9mm stylus
- **Varus**- 9mm laterally
- **Valgus**- 9mm  
“floated” medially
- **Severe deformity**-  
consider 2mm off  
affected side

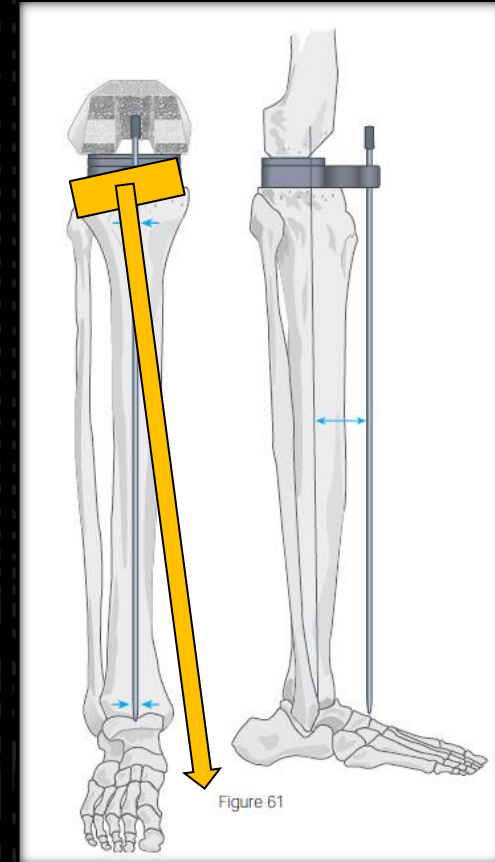
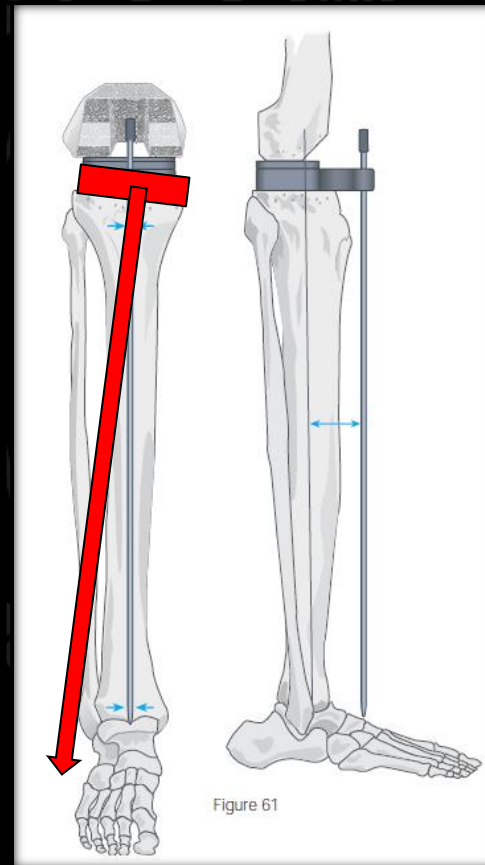
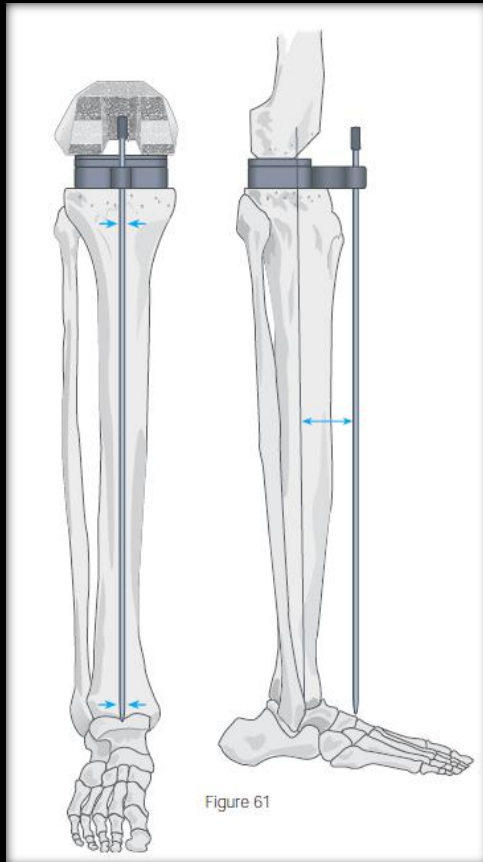




# Checking Proximal Tibial Cut



# Coronal Malalignment- Tibia Cut



**Neutral**

**Varus**

**Valgus**

# Flexion/ Extension Gap Assessment

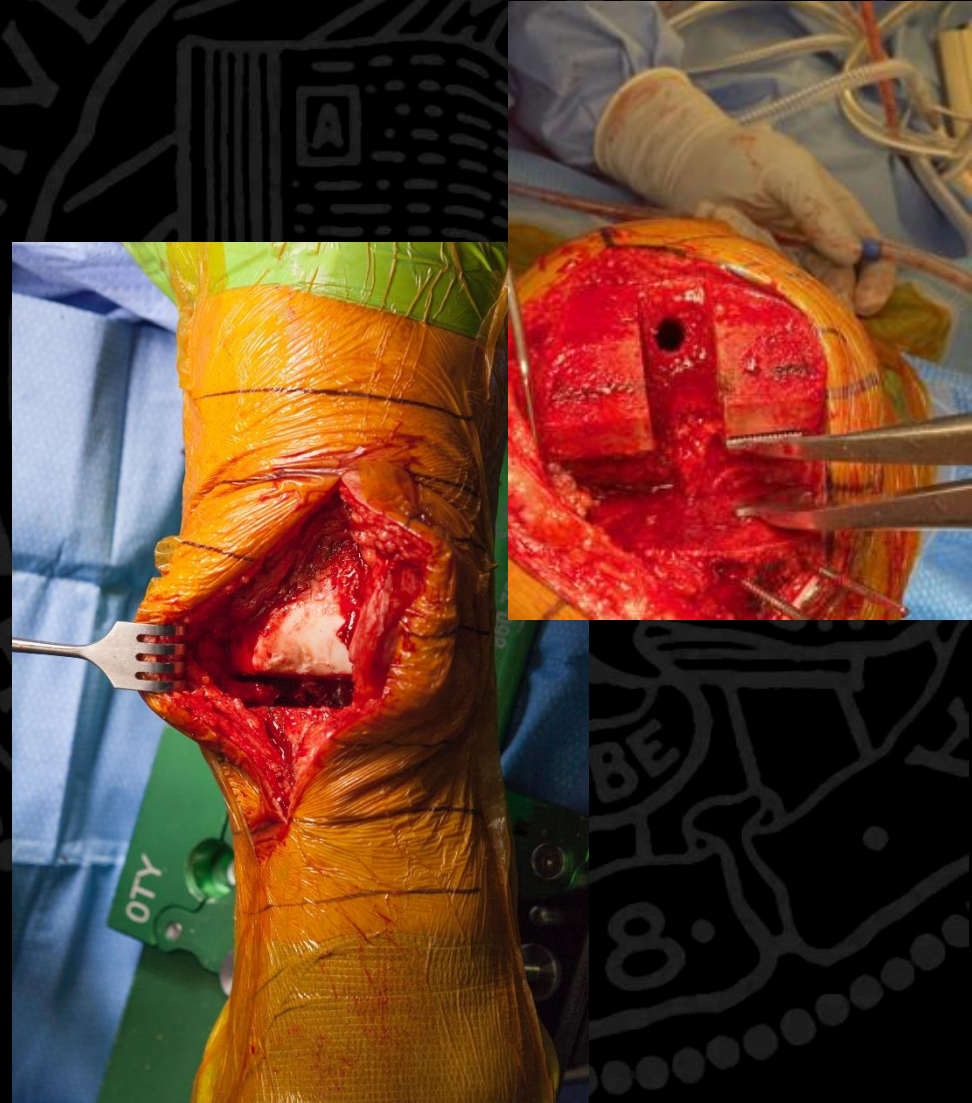
- **Spacer block assessment**
- **Rectangle vs trapezoid?**





# Flexion/ Extension Gaps

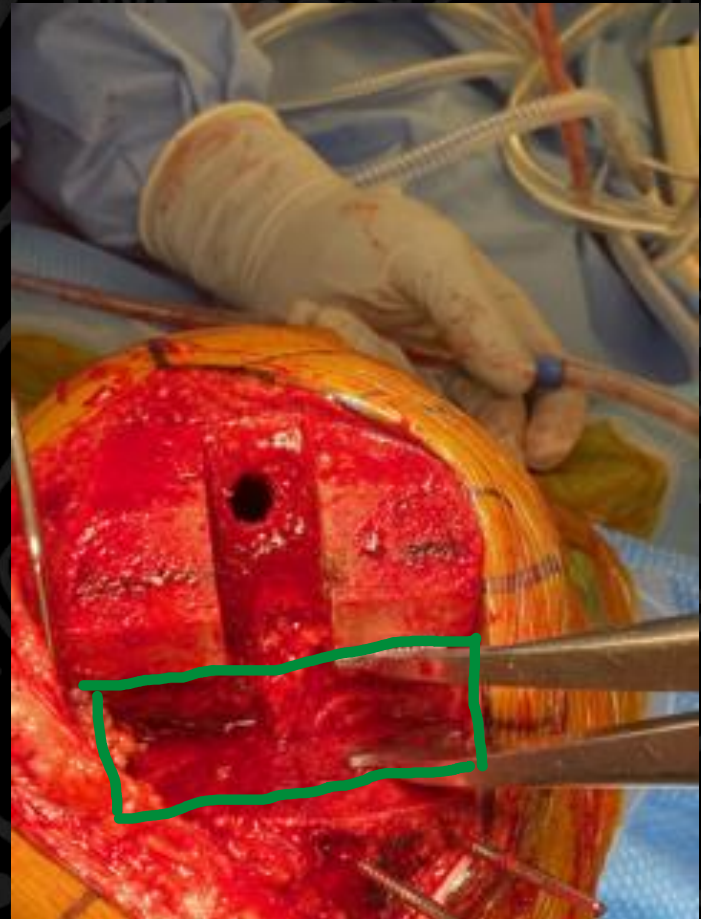
- Goal is symmetric rectangular gaps
- Accommodate  $\geq$  minimum construct thickness





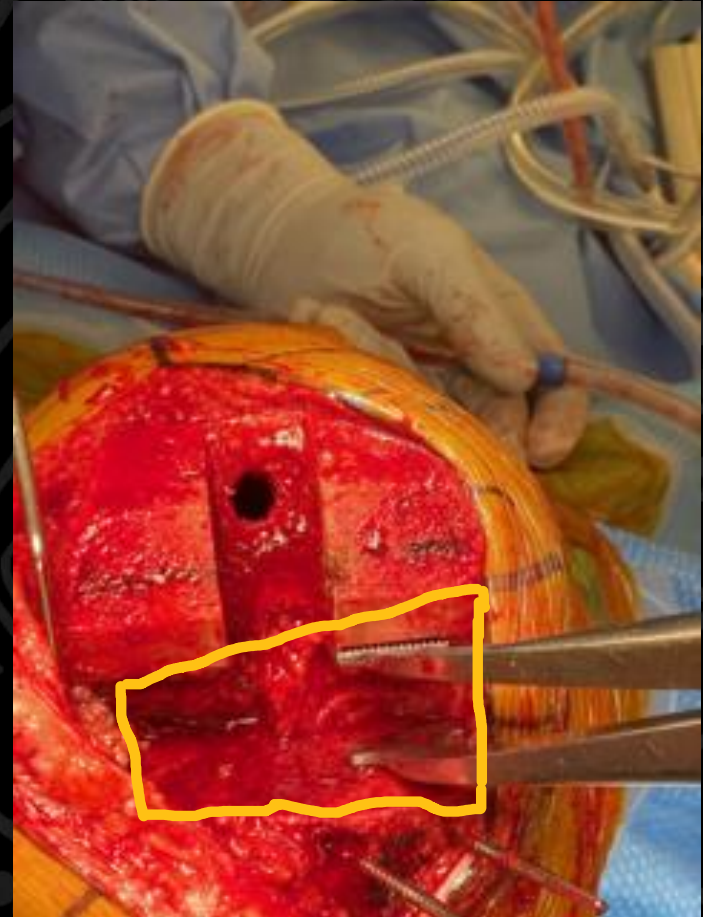
# A Trapezoidal Gap- What might it indicate?

- **Bony issue**
  - **Femur**
  - **Tibia**
- **Soft tissue issue**
  - **Preop deformity**
  - **Iatrogenic injury**



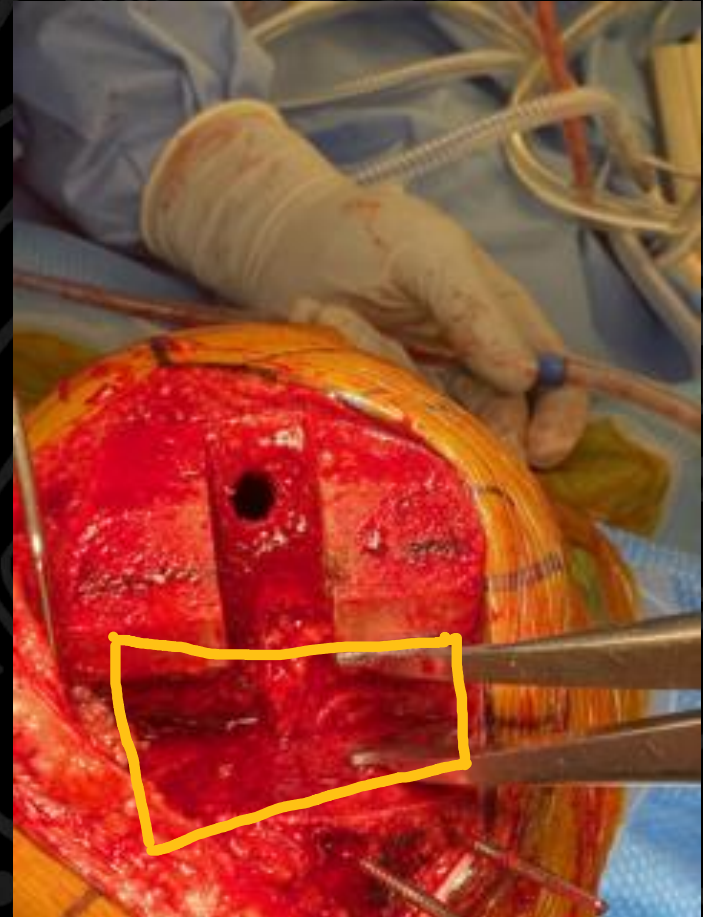
# A Trapezoidal Gap- What might it indicate?

- Flexion: Medial > Lateral
- Bony issue
  - Femur- ↑ ER
    - Exaggerated Grand Piano?
  - Tibia- Varus cut
    - Drop rod falls lateral?
- Soft tissue issue
  - Preop deformity
    - Valgus knee?
  - Iatrogenic injury
    - Varus knee?- anterior MCL



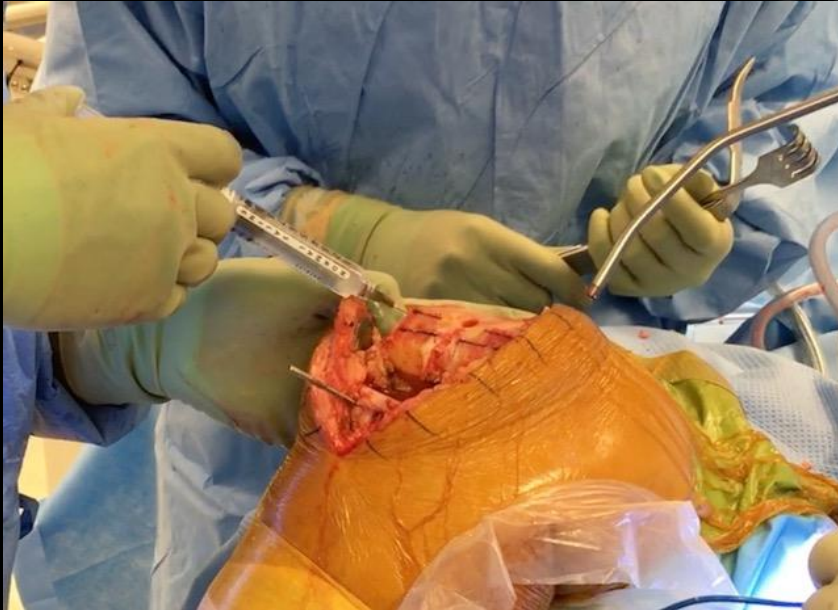
# A Trapezoidal Gap- What might it indicate?

- Flexion: Lateral > Medial
- Bony issue
  - Femur- ↑ IR
    - Symmetric anterior cut?
  - Tibia- Valgus cut
    - Drop rod falls lateral?
- Soft tissue issue
  - Preop deformity
    - Varus knee?
  - Iatrogenic injury
    - Valgus knee?- popliteus





# Periarticular Injection



## ■ Cocktail?

- ropivacaine 5mg/mL (49.25mL), epinephrine 1mg/mL, (0.5mL), ketorolac 30mg/mL (1mL), clonidine 100mg/mL (0.8mL), and normal saline (48.45mL) for a total volume of 100mL. (Dalury 2011)

## ■ Technique

- Periosteum
- Posterior knee- important, but beware

## ■ Timing?

- Throughout case
- While cement curing



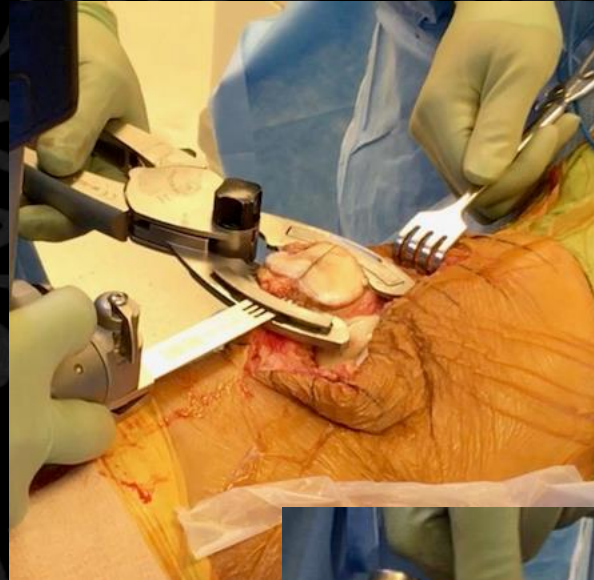
# Patellar Resurfacing

- **Restore composite thickness**
- **Symmetric resection**
- **Removing lateral facet**
- **Tracks laterally?**



# Patellar Resurfacing

- Restore composite thickness
- **Symmetric resection**
- Removing lateral facet
- Tracks laterally?



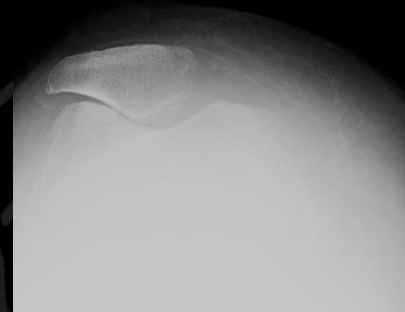
# Patellar Resurfacing

---

- **Restore composite thickness**
- **Symmetric resection**
- **Removing lateral facet**
- **Tracks laterally?**

# Patellar Resurfacing

- Restore composite thickness
- Symmetric resection
- Removing lateral facet
- Tracks laterally?





# Cementing

- **Clean, dry bony surfaces**
- **Finger pressurize cement into bone**
- **Coat implants**
- **Avoid putting cement on posterior femoral condyles**



# Cementing

- Clean, dry bony surfaces
- **Finger pressurize cement into bone**
- Coat implants
- Avoid putting cement on posterior femoral condyles



# Cementing

- Clean, dry bony surfaces
- Finger pressurize cement into bone
- Coat implants
- Avoid putting cement on posterior femoral condyles





# Cementing

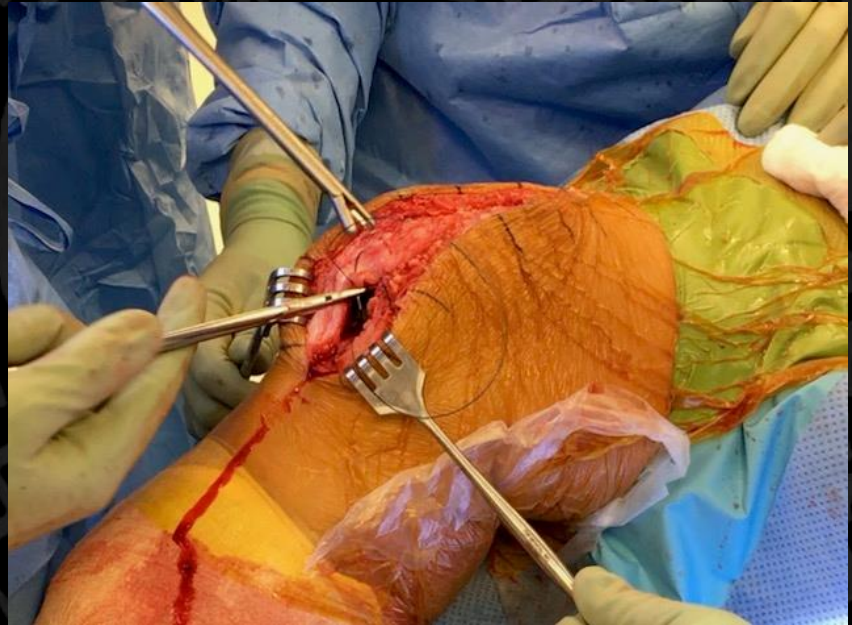
- Clean, dry bony surfaces
- Finger pressurize cement into bone
- Coat implants
- **Avoid putting cement on posterior femoral condyles**





# Closure

- **Multilayer closure**
  - **Combo interrupted/  
running barbed**
- **Consider subcuticular  
/skin glue**
- **Dressing in hyperflexion**



# Closure

---

- **Multilayer closure**
  - **Combo interrupted/  
running barbed**
- **Consider subcuticular  
/skin glue**
- **Dressing in hyperflexion**

# Closure

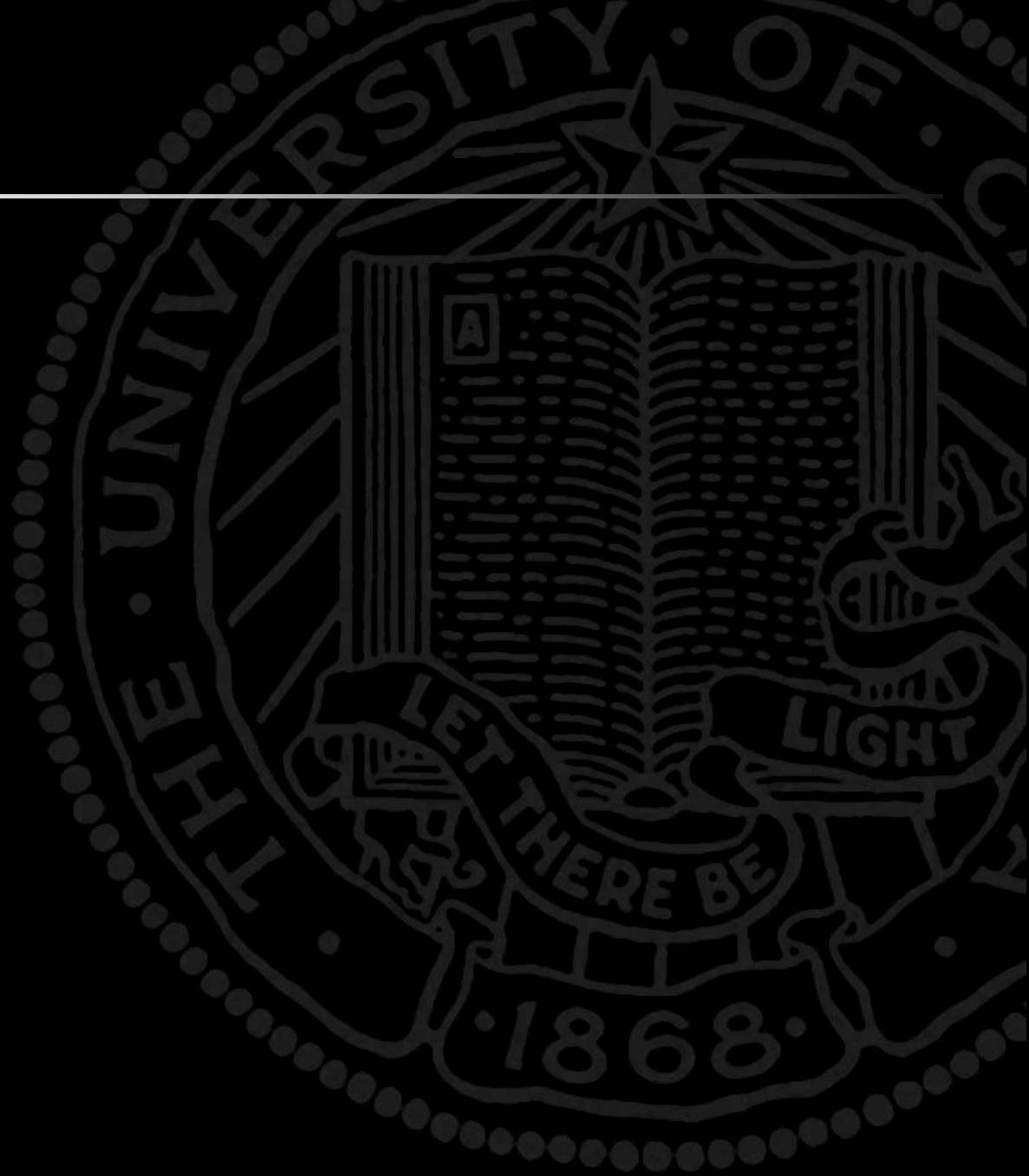
- **Multilayer closure**
  - **Combo interrupted/  
running barbed**
- **Consider subcuticular  
/skin glue**
- **Dressing in hyperflexion**



---

# POST-OPERATIVE





THANKS for your attention!

