

# ACL Reconstruction with Pre-Sutured GraftLink®

## CASE STUDY

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Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) ruptures are common sports medicine injuries that require surgical treatment. The primary objective of ACL reconstruction is to restore knee stability and reduce pain by replacing the damaged tendon with a graft.<sup>1</sup> Compared to autografts, allograft tendons serve as a suitable graft option due to no donor site morbidity, decreased post-operative pain and stiffness, and decreased operative time.<sup>1,2</sup> Allograft constructs, such as pre-sutured GraftLink, offer strong and secure fixation, biological incorporation, and predictable graft shape and size.

GraftLink is a pre-sutured allograft tendon construct processed with LifeNet Health's patented and validated sterilization technology, Allowash XG®. The final step terminally sterilizes the graft using low-dose, ultralow-temperature gamma irradiation. This process provides a graft with a sterility assurance level (SAL) of  $10^{-6}$  without compromising the construct's inherent biomechanical properties.<sup>3</sup>

The following case study presents the use of pre-sutured GraftLink for an anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction.

## Patient

- 17-year-old, female soccer player
- History of right knee instability
- Previous ACL reconstruction with internal brace with medial meniscus repair
- At 16 months post-operative, patient had been doing great and was getting back to sport when she was hit laterally while playing soccer.
- Positive Lachman, Anterior Drawer, 1+ Pivot shift

## Procedure

- Arthroscopic evaluation found ACL completely torn from tibia
- Button fixation on tibia from previous surgery removed
- Pre-sutured GraftLink 9.0 x 70 fixated using a BTB TightRope® on femoral side and a BTB ABS TightRope on the tibial side
- StimuBlast® injected into sockets
- 11 mm tibial button also used

## Outcome

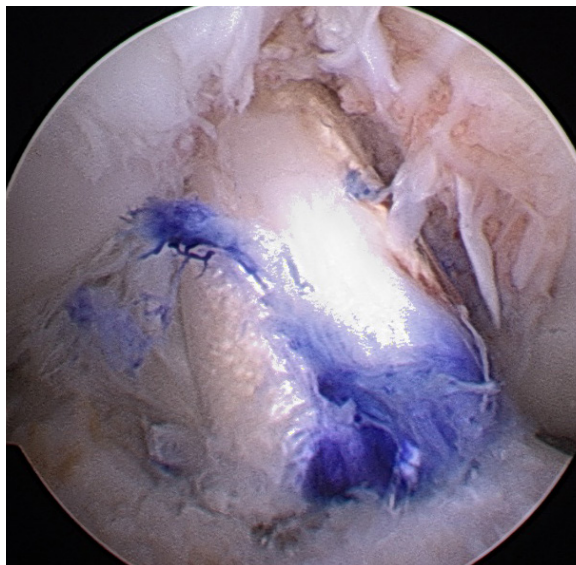
- 15 months post-operative patient reported no pain and had full ROM.
- No Lachmans, Anterior Drawer, Pivot Shift
- Cleared to return back to sport

# ACL Reconstruction with Pre-sutured GraftLink®

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Pre-operative MRI revealing torn ACL



Intra-operative image of implanted GraftLink®

Results from case studies are not predictive of results in other cases. Results in other cases may vary.

## References

1. Cheheb EL, Flik KR, Vidal AF, Levinson M, Gallo RA, Altchek DW, Warren RF. Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction using achilles tendon allograft: an assessment of outcome for patients age 30 years and older. *HSS J.* 2011;7(1):44-51.
2. Klimkiewicz JJ, Samsell BJ, Riff A, DeBerardino TM, Moore MA. Comparison of human tendon allografts and autografts used in knee reconstruction. *Curr Orthop Pract.* 2011;22(6):494-502.
3. Samsell BJ, and Moore MA. Use of controlled low dose gamma irradiation to sterilize allograft tendons for ACL reconstruction: biomechanical and clinical perspective. *Cell Tissue Bank.* 2012;13(2):217-223.

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