

A'LINK'S®

Operative Procedure

Rotator Cuff Repair
With **A'LINK'S®** bioabsorbable suture anchor



DESCRIPTION

A rotator cuff tear is a common cause of pain and disability among adults. Surgery is recommended in the case of persistent pain or weakness in the shoulder that does not improve when relying on nonsurgical treatment. A rotator cuff repair involves stitching the torn tendon back onto its attachment to the arm bone (Humerus).

This procedure may be performed using bone anchors with sutures, such as the **A'LINK'S®** Bioabsorbable suture anchor device, either through an arthroscopy technique or open surgery.

The advantages of repairing a rotator cuff tear arthroscopically are:

- Less post-operative pain
- Less time in hospital (usually can be performed as a day-case operation)
- Quicker return to work and sports
- Usually, no stitches to remove
- Less wound complications

This surgical technique is described for the implantation of first rank anchor. It can also be applied using multiple anchors on multiples tendons and rows if needed.

The surgical technique may vary depending on the medical school.

PROCEDURE

Preparation of the shoulder

Perform two incisions to create two standard portals: posterior and anterior portal. The posterior portal is used to introduce the arthroscope and the anterior portal is used for instrument passage.

Pass the arthroscope into the subacromial space via the posterior portal. The rotator cuff tear is visualized through the posterior and lateral portals via the arthroscope to identify the tears and assess the repair needed.

Note: *To facilitate visualization, clean the surroundings of the repair site with a standard motorized instrument.*

Perform debriding in order to remove any loose and devascularized flaps of rotator cuff, using the Combo Grasper tool and motorized instrument.

Use the Combo Grasper instrumentation to test the tendons

Realization of the tunnel

Prepare a hole into the bone, in the location where the tendon has to be reattached. To perform this step, the Teknimed tap instrumentation needs to be used.

The diameter of the chosen tap should be the same as the diameter of the A'LINK'S® anchor.

Insert the tap into the bone using a hammer, far enough for the first thread to touch the bone. Then, turn the tap clockwise to introduce it until the laser mark reaches bone level.

Note: A pre-hole can be performed to facilitate the insertion of the tap.

Unscrew the tap to remove it.

Note: The A'LINK'S® tap is specifically made for insertion of the A'LINK'S® anchor, it is mandatory to use the A'LINK'S® tap during this procedure.

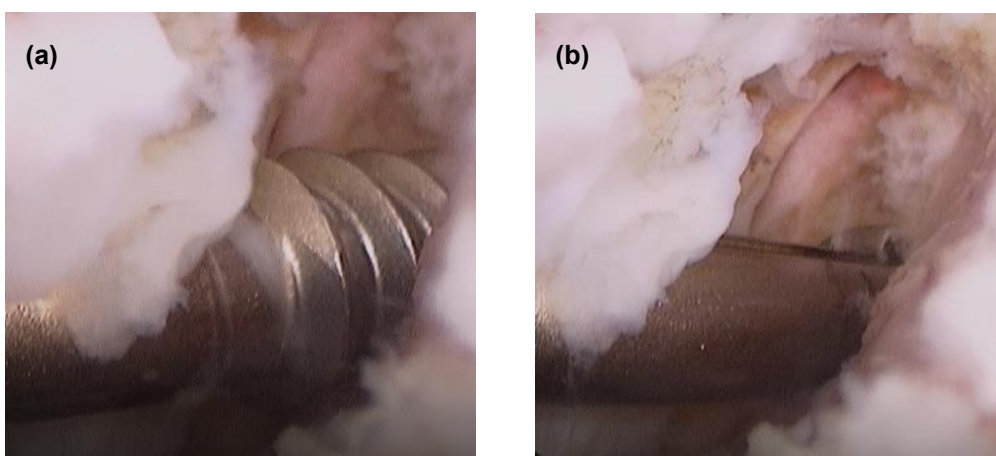


Figure 1: Insertion of the tap into bone (a) until full insertion (b)

Insertion of the anchor

Introduce the A'LINK'S® anchor into the tunnel made with the tap, being careful to align it with the axis of the tunnel.

Screw the A'LINK'S® anchor gently into the tunnel until the head of the anchor reaches bone level. The anchor must be fully inserted into the tunnel.



Figure 2: Insertion of the anchor into the tunnel (a) until full insertion (b)

Pull on the cap of the handle to remove it from the inserter.

Untie the sutures on either side of the handle, one after the other so as not to tangle them.

Withdraw the A'LINK'S® inserter from the anchor carefully.

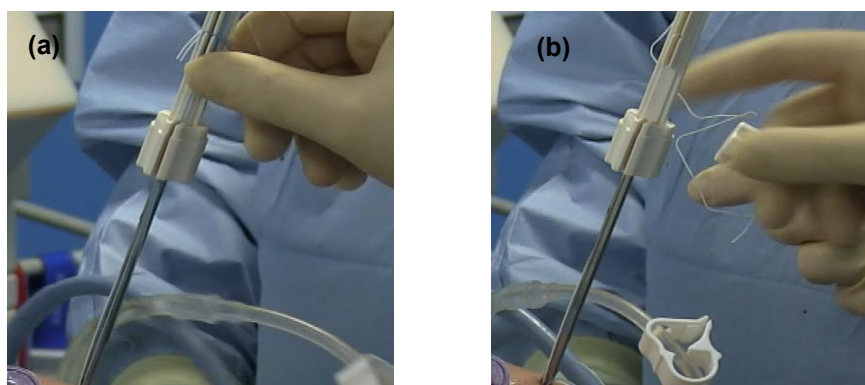


Figure 3: Removal of the handle cap (a), untying of the sutures (b)

The sutures remain separated after removal of the inserter.

Pull on the sutures to check that they can slide freely inside of the anchor.

Rotator Cuff repair

To execute a rotator cuff repair, the torn tendons must be reattached to the bone, where the anchoring was performed, using the sutures.

Suture tying

The wires mounted on anchors are passed through the tendon and knotted together to apply the tendon to the bone.

Note: *Multiple knots are necessary in order to secure the attachment.*

Suture cutting

Once the knots are made and tightened, cut the remaining sutures.



Figure 4: Cutting of the sutures with the trim cord cutter (a) picture after the sutures have been cut

The rotator cuff tendon is fully repaired.

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