

Abstract

Background: The purpose of this study was to assess whether patients who required revision of their ACL reconstruction had excessive generalised laxity of ligaments compared to the normal population.

Methods: 24 patients and 34 control subjects were assessed using the Beighton score. Those with a score greater or equal to 4 out of 9 were deemed to have generalised ligament laxity. The reason for graft failure in patients requiring a revision reconstruction of their ACL was also elicited.

Results: 44.1% of the control group and 45.8% of the case subjects were found to have excessive ligament laxity. The reason for graft failure was most commonly of traumatic origin rather than biological failure amongst normal laxity patients but was of biological origin in those patients with evidence of generalised ligament laxity.

Conclusions: A link between ligament laxity and the failure of primary reconstructive surgery could not be demonstrated by this study.

Keywords: *Laxity*- slackness or looseness. *Autograft*- A tissue or organ grafted into a new position but from the same individual. *Hypermobility*- Ability to move a joint more than normal.