



Shelbourne Knee Center
at Methodist Hospital
Specialized Care for Knee Injuries

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MR Imaging of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries. Vahey T, Meyer SF, Shelbourne KD, Klootwyk TE: *MRI Clinics of N America* 2:365-380, 1994.

Tears of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) are common knee injuries that require prompt and accurate evaluation. Clinical assessment can be difficult, particularly in the setting of an acute injury, because pain and muscular spasm may limit the physical examination significantly. Many studies have documented the high rate of accuracy of MR imaging in the evaluation of the ACL (95-100%) and MR imaging has quickly become the modality of choice to assess the integrity of this ligament. In order to appreciate fully the role of MR imaging in evaluating the patient with an ACL tear, the clinical management of these patients must be understood. In this article we focus on six different aspects of ACL evaluation: anatomy and function of the ACL, presentation and clinical diagnosis of ACL tears, MR imaging technique and normal anatomy, primary signs of ACL tear, secondary signs of ACL tear, and the role of MR imaging in evaluation of the patient with and ACL injury.