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**Repair of Locked Bucket-Handle Meniscus Tears in Chronic Anterior Cruciate Ligament-Deficient Knees. O'Shea JJ, Shelbourne KD: Am J Sports Med 31: 216-220, 2003**

**Background:** Large bucket-handle meniscal tears in knees with chronic anterior cruciate ligament deficiency have been considered avascular and, thus, irreparable.

**Hypothesis:** The rate of meniscal healing is higher than previously reported.

**Study Design:** Prospective cohort study.

**Methods:** Fifty-nine patients underwent staged surgical procedures of meniscal repair followed at an average of  $77 \pm 58$  days by ligament reconstruction once full range of motion was obtained.

**Results:** Fifty-two patients with 55 meniscal repairs were available for follow-up. At reconstruction, 30 menisci (55%) appeared healed; 19 (34%), partially healed; and 6 (11%) showed no healing (only 4 were removed). Of 43 tears in the white-on-white zone, 8 appeared healed; 2 partially healed; and 1 showed no healing. One meniscal tear in the red-on-red zone appeared healed. At an average follow-up of  $4.3 \pm 3.1$  years, 36 of the 43 (83.7%) white-on-white meniscal repairs remained asymptomatic; all repairs in the other zones remained asymptomatic.

**Conclusion:** Locked bucket-handle meniscal tears heal at a high rate when repaired as an isolated procedure, even when full weightbearing and activity before reconstruction is allowed and when the tear is in the white-on-white zone.