

# Dr John Negrine

[www.orthosports.com.au](http://www.orthosports.com.au)

47-49 Burwood Road, Concord

29-31 Dora Street, Hurstville

160 Belmore Road, Randwick



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# Midfoot miscellany and lateral ligament repair

John P. Negrine F.R.A.C.S.  
Latest Orthopaedic Updates  
Saturday 2nd November 2013



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# The changing demographic

Never start your talk with a graph

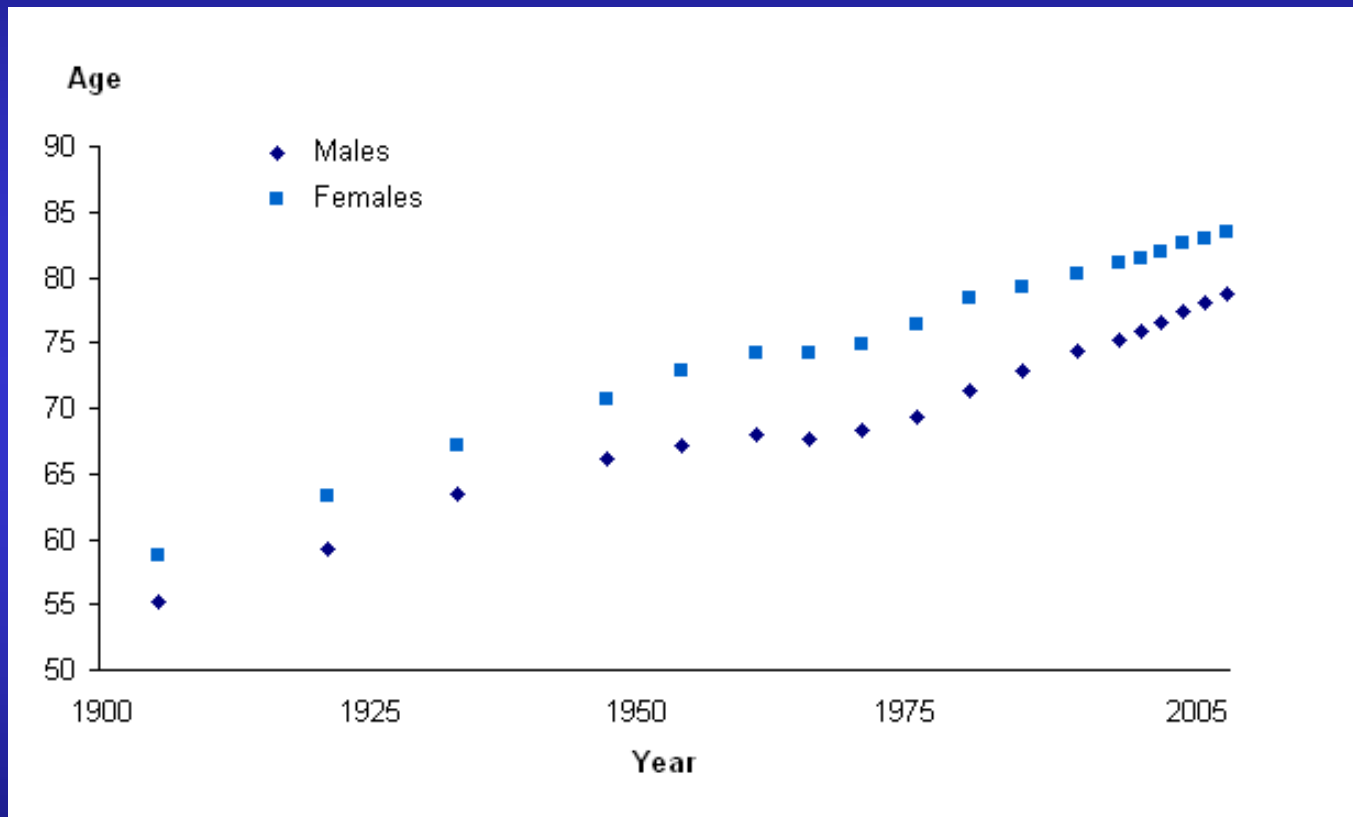


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# Life expectancy in Australia



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# Changing demographic

- Modern medicine has “gifted” people 20 years
- People expect to be active, play tennis, golf and party!



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# Senior moments

The elderly don't have sex? Carers in nursing homes are seeing otherwise and often butting heads with families and the law over how to deal with it. By **Peter Munro**.

HE'S ASLEEP NOW, CURLED TO ONE SIDE IN BED, HIS lower half covered with a blanket. Lying there with the television on and the door to his nursing home room open, he is the picture of an aged man, grey hair and eyes closed in the early afternoon. He has put away his blow-up sex doll. Time was, before his dementia advanced, they would be together in his room all day with the door closed. Away, too, is the pornography he owned before leaving his home for full-time aged care.

Hard though it is to conceive of this elderly man as a

– from the penis-in-vagina-orgasm-fireworks experience to quiet intimacy.

"We reach a time in our life when sitting side by side and holding hands may be the ultimate in sexual intimacy." People are sexual beings their whole lives, she says. "We call it womb-to-tomb sexuality."

Yet about a quarter of Australians aged 18-24 believe older people don't have sexual relationships. Even the meaning of "old age" is skewed: younger respondents reckon you're old at 56; for older people it is 67.



# People are outlasting their joints and tendons

This is a boom time for orthopaedic  
surgeons and physiotherapists



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# Tibialis anterior

- Largest muscle of the anterior compartment
- The principle dorsi-flexor
- Little literature available
- Spectrum of pathology seen



# Tibialis posterior tendinosis (like gall stones)

- Fat
- Fifty
- Female
- Diabetes
- Hypertension

Mann and Holmes

Foot Ankle Int 13:70-79,1992



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# Tibialis anterior tendinosis

- Active  
(Golfers/walkers)
- Age 70
- Female > Male
- Not obese
- Systemically well



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# My practice year

- Foot and ankle exclusively in a group of 10 orthopaedic surgeons
- 5000 patients in consultation
- 500 operations
- Six cases of tibialis anterior tendinosis
- Four cases of rupture



# Patient Demographics

## Tendinosis (6)

- Average age 66
- All females

## Tib. Ant rupture (4)

- Average age 75
- All males



# Tibialis anterior tendinosis

## Examination

- Observe the swelling medially
- Patient is point tender at the insertion
- Walking on heels often aggravates the pain
- Pain in bed at night





# Differential diagnosis

- First TMT OA
- Neoplasia (PVNS, synovial sarcoma)
- Rupture presents as a foot drop  $\therefore$  c.peroneal n. palsy/L4 radiculopathy



# Tibialis anterior tendinosis

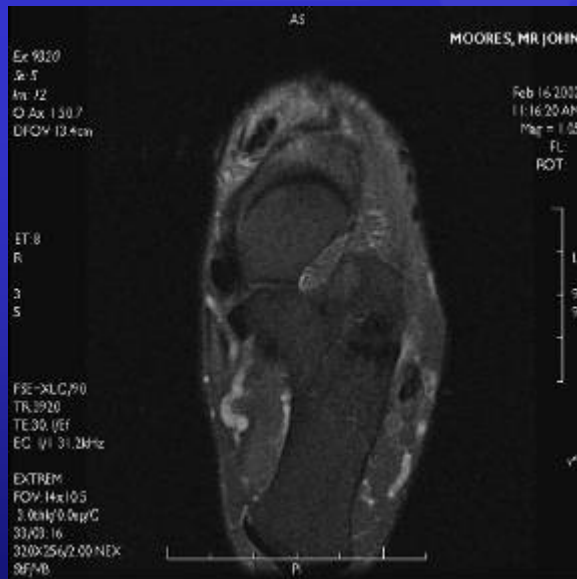
## Imaging

- Ultrasound- Thickened heterogeneous tendon
- MRI - Intrasubstance Signal changes/oedema/
- The elusive spur
- Assists differential diagnosis



# Tibialis Anterior Rupture

- Sagittal T1
- Tendon “Missing”
- Oedema around stump
- Fluid on axial View



MRI Images courtesy J. Linklater

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# Tibialis anterior tendinosis treatment

- Rest
- Aircast boot/Foot drop splint
- Anti-inflammatories
- Physiotherapy to stretch and strengthen
- No cortisone - ?? PRP/Stem Cells/Autologous tenocytes



# Tibialis anterior tendinosis

## Surgery

- Transfer peroneus tertius
- Debride the tendon
- Remove any TMT joint spurs



# Surgery

- Weave peroneus tertius (spare tendon) into the thickened stump of tibialis anterior
- Day surgery 2 weeks non-weightbearing 2 weeks in a boot
- Seems to work!



# Midfoot arthritis



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# Talking about primary not post-traumatic



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# Biomechanics

## TMT sagittal joint Motion Degrees:

- 1st 1.6
- 2nd .6
- 3rd 3.5
- 4th 9.6
- 5th 10.2

Ouzounian TJ, Shereff MJ. In vitro determination of midfoot motion. *Foot & ankle* 1989;10:140-6.



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# Demographics

- Patients in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> decade
- Present with a burning aching pain across the top of the midfoot
- Worse in tight shoes
- Classic history of having to loosen the laces to keep walking



# Anatomical location

- Most commonly 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> joints
- Theorised that not only are they among the least mobile but they take more stress as a result of being the longest metatarsal
- Medial naviculo-cuneiform also common



# Radiology



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# Treatment non-surgical

- Anti-inflammatories
- Rocker soled shoe
- Skip lacing shoes
- Steroid injection under x-ray or ultrasound control
- Stem cells/PRP: Quelle horreur!!!



# Definitive treatment

- Arthrodesis
- 6 weeks in plaster non-weightbearing/ 4 weeks in a walking boot
- Good for pain relief
- Patients do not notice any loss of movement
- Fusion rate approx. 80%



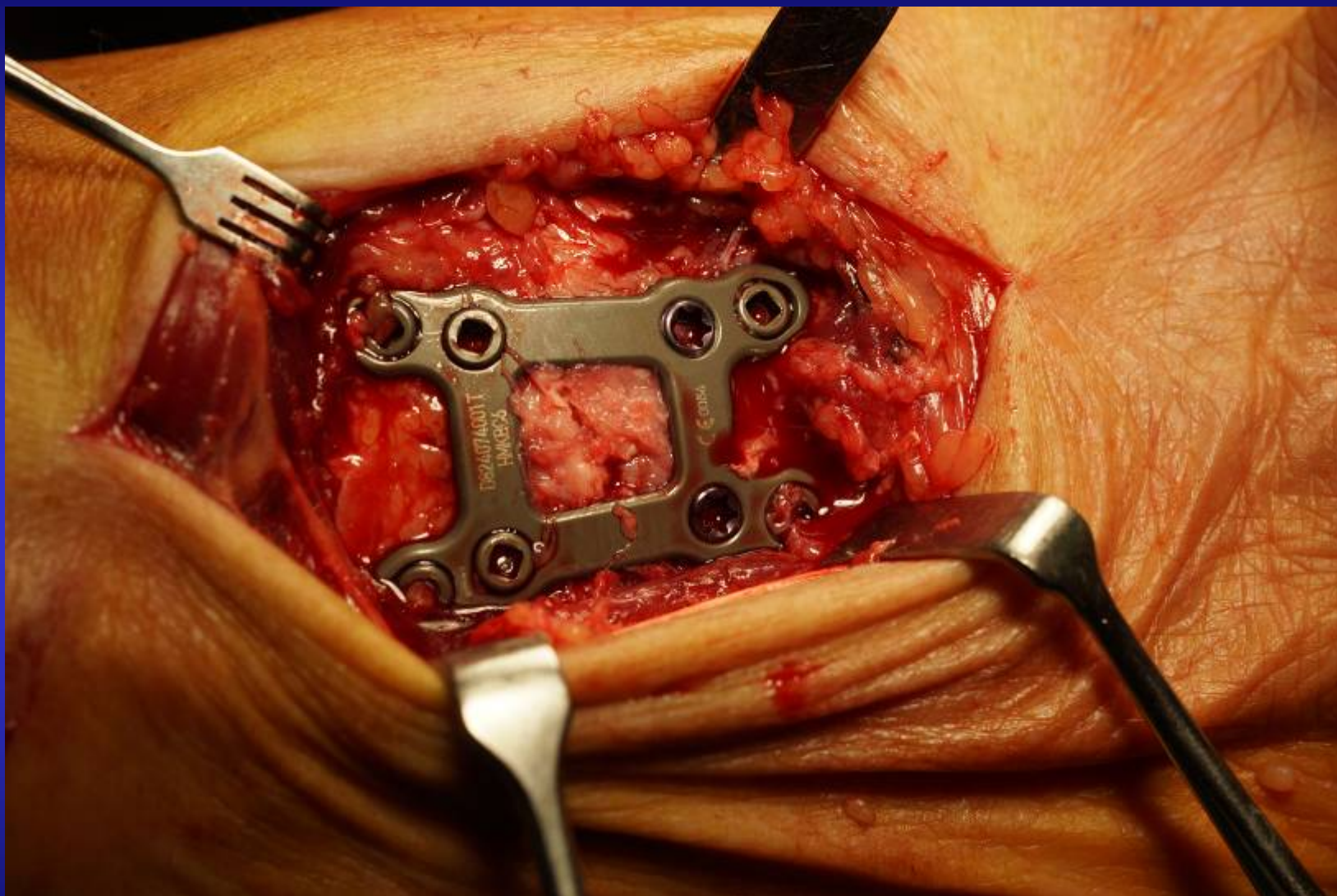




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# Bob's Balls



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# Ankle Ligaments



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# The commonest orthopaedic injury

- 1:10,000 population/day
- 460 people will sprain their ankles in Sydney today



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# Who needs surgery acutely?

- Acute ligament repair never indicated in my opinion
- Displaced osteochondral fracture mechanically blocking the joint
- Acute tendon tear or dislocation peronei
- Displaced syndesmotic injury





# Natural history

- Most ankle sprains get better regardless of treatment and many never see a doctor, most ankle sprains do not cause ankle arthritis even with talar osteochondral fractures.



# Who needs surgery late?

- Ligament instability failing a good physiotherapy program
- Ongoing pain from osteochondral fracture
- Scarring / failure to regain range of motion



# How to diagnose ankle instability

- You must talk to the patient



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# You must examine the patient



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# Ligament instability is not an MRI diagnosis



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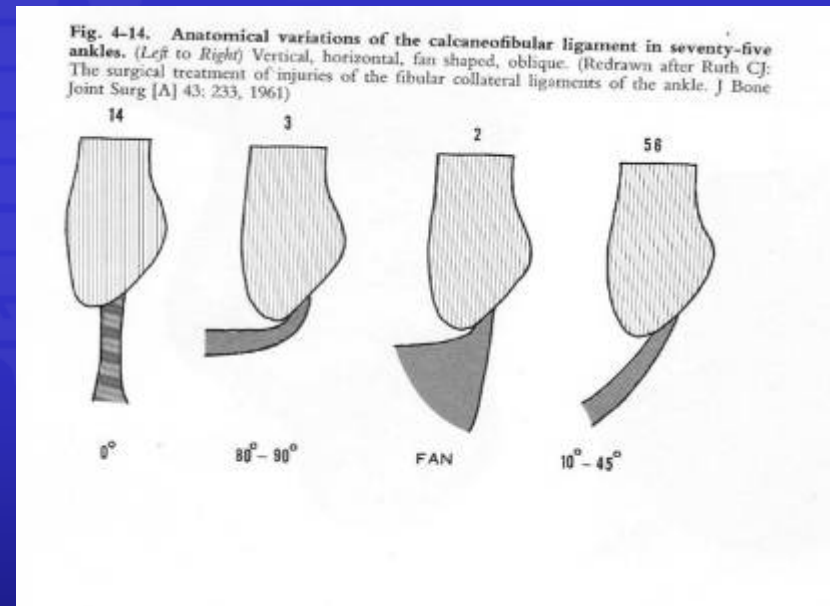
# Ligament anatomy

- Commonly anterior talo-fibular ligament
- Calcaneofibular ligament
- Less commonly the syndesmosis



# Calcaneo-fibular ligament

- Anatomy highly variable
- Ligament usually stretches before it tears
- Frequently re-attaches anteriorly



# Skin incision



- From tip of fibular malleolus
- 4cm anteriorly
- Extensile
- Previously described incision along the anterior edge of the fibula is not extensile





# Capsular incision

- Open capsule parallel to anterior fibula leaving a 5mm cuff
- Take care not to injure peroneal tendons inferiorly



# Capsular incision



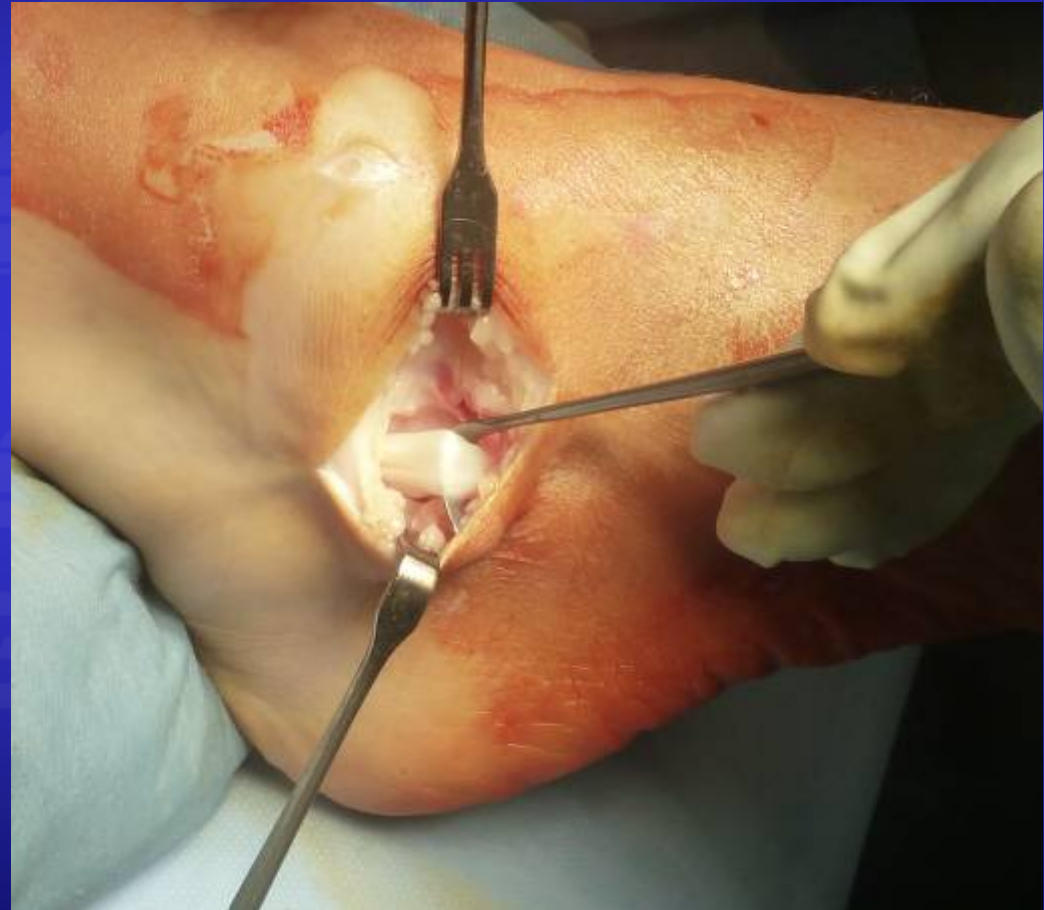
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# Open peroneal sheath

- Inspect peroneal tendons



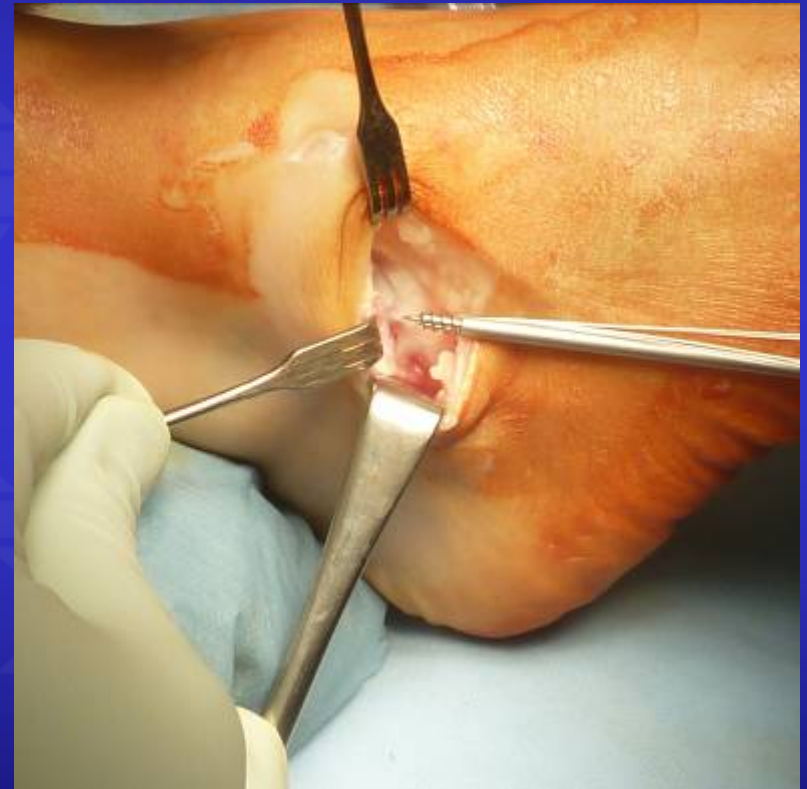
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# Re-attach calcaneo-fibular ligament

- I use a suture anchor
- A “screw in” anchor is easier to remove in case of revision

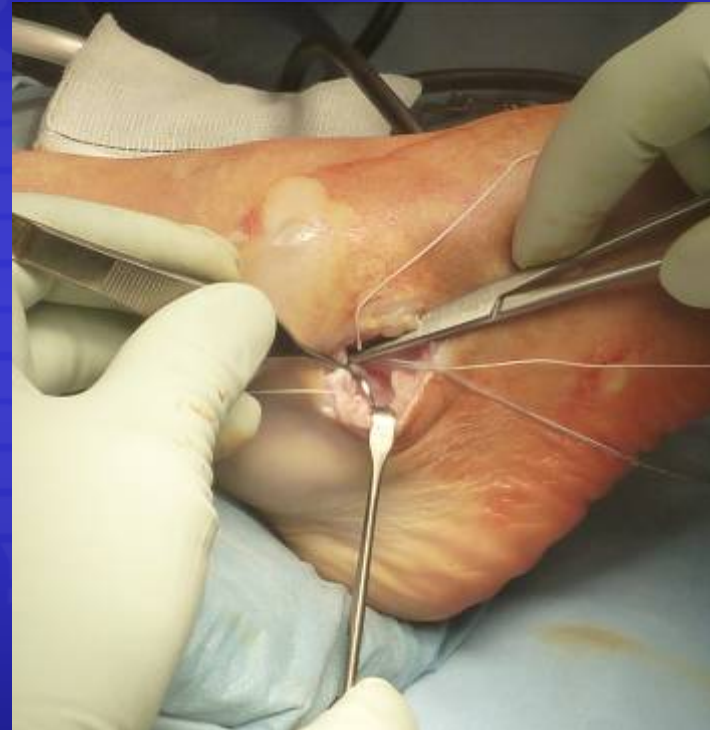


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# Calcaneo-fibular ligament



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# ATFL repair

- Basically “double breast” the capsule
- Contains the ligament
- I use #1 PDS sutures and oversew with #1 Vicryl



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# ATFL repair



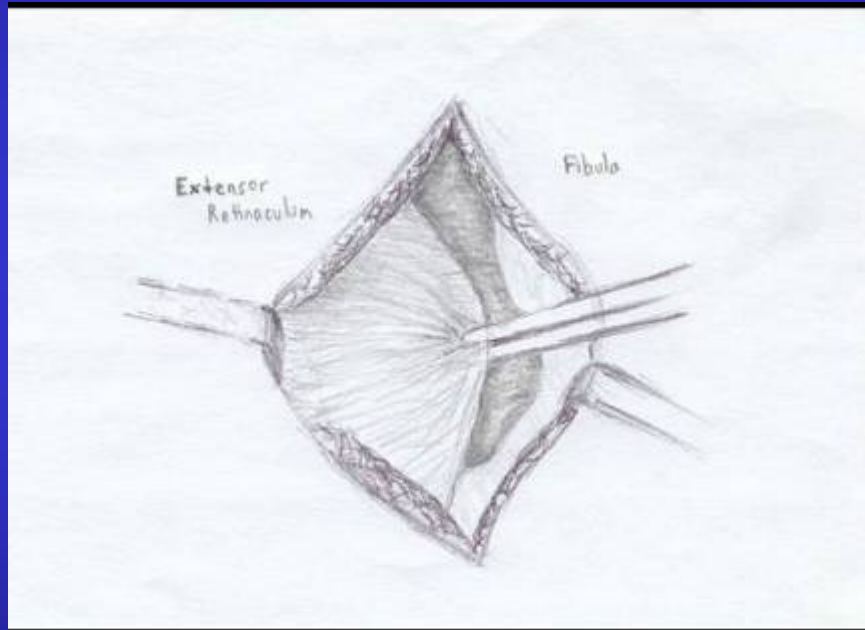
# Gould modification

- Attach the inferior extensor retinaculum to the anterior fibula
- Said to reinforce the repair
- Adds to the subtalar stability





# Gould modification



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# Post operative regime

- 10 Days in plaster non-weight bearing
- 4 weeks in an airstirrup
- Physiotherapy at 6 weeks



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# Rehabilitation

- At 6 weeks wobble board, peroneal strengthening
- Patients allowed to walk, cycle, swim
- Run at 3 months
- Return to non-contact sport at 3 months
- Return to contact sport 4 – 6 months





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