

Surgical Case Report

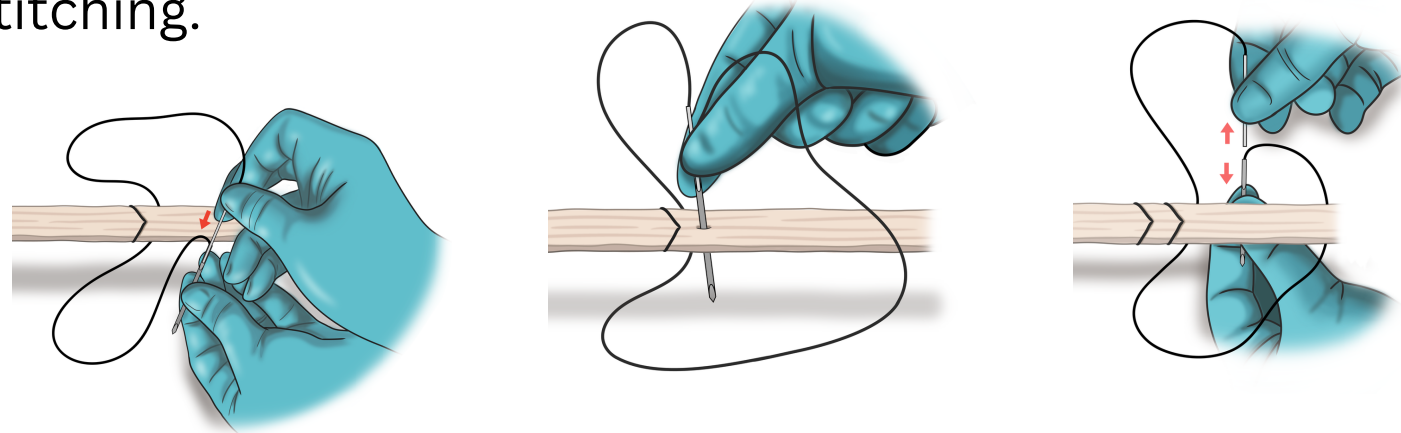
Anterior Tibial Tendon Reconstruction Utilizing EasyWhip®

for a Side-by-Side Tenodesis

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EASYWHIP® TECHNOLOGY

EasyWhip® is a versatile solution for stitching in ligament and tendon surgeries. This innovative two-part needle facilitates several patterns: the traditional whip stitch, the patented WhipLock™, and custom patterns that combine both methods. EasyWhip enables easy, fast, and secure stitching.



INTRODUCTION

The anterior tibialis tendon is found beginning at the distal one-third of the tibia traveling across the anterior ankle (Juneja et al., 2023). This tendon drives the biomechanics of movement in the foot as it touches the ground, pulls the foot up, or turns the foot inward. Ruptures of the anterior tibial tendon are rare conditions in patients 45 years and older, and when left untreated, ankle stability and movement are limited (Tickner et al., 2019). Therefore, surgical reconstruction is typically required to restore functionality and mobility.

The surgical case here describes how EasyWhip® was utilized for reconstruction of an anterior tibial tendon rupture.

PRE-OPERATIVE BACKGROUND

A 57 year-old female patient was referred to Dr. Adam Budny for evaluation and management of an injury in which she felt a pop in her ankle. No fracture was noted on x-ray when she was seen previously in the ER, and MRI results confirmed an anterior tibialis tendon rupture. The patient was scheduled for a primary repair, but the initial surgery was delayed due to her need for cardiac clearance. Consequently, the repair was then performed approximately 6 weeks after the injury.

SURGICAL INTERVENTION

Due to the delay in surgery, there was substantial retraction of the native tendon requiring use of an allograft to fill the deficit (Figure 1). The Achilles tendon-bone allograft was secured distally with a screw (Figure 2). A side-by-side tenodesis was then performed with EasyWhip® (Figure 3).

THE VALUE OF EASYWHIP®

EasyWhip® facilitated the technique by allowing the repair to be completed in a continuous fashion across the deficit due to the novel suture needle design. The unique features of EasyWhip® made it possible to secure both tendons in one pass from proximal to distal, and it provided excellent strength with the #2 UHMWPE suture. In addition, this decreased surgical time for the repair.



Figure 1: Retraction of native anterior tibial tendon.



Figure 2: Tendon-bone allograft distally fixed with screw.



Figure 3: Final reconstruction after side-by-side tenodesis.



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This case report was created under close collaboration with guidance of the presenting surgeon. It contains a summary of medical techniques and opinions based on the surgeon's training and expertise in the field, along with knowledge of Winter Innovations' products. Winter Innovations does not provide medical advice or patient treatment recommendations.

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