SwiveLock® CCL

Client Information



Arthrex® Vet Systems

The Arthrex Difference

Since 1984, Arthrex has been a privately held corporation committed to one thing: providing the finest quality products and educational services to meet the special needs of surgeons and their patients. Arthrex is dedicated to creative product development and medical education with an experienced, devoted team of professionals who are truly committed to continuing this long-term tradition. New product innovation in less invasive surgery is the heart and soul of Arthrex, which has resulted in the development of over 11,000 products for arthroscopic and minimally invasive orthopaedic surgical procedures. Our goal is to make technically demanding surgical procedures easier, safer and reproducible.



What is cranial cruciate ligament disease?

The cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) is an important stabilizing structure in the knees (stifles) of dogs and cats. The CCL normally sits within the knee and is instrumental in assisting with articulation between the bones of the knee joint. During normal function, the CCL prevents abnormal movement of the bones. Injury to the CCL is common in dogs and results in abnormal laxity within the joint. Loss of stability of the knee leads to damage of structures within the knee and irreversible osteoarthritis.

Signs and symptoms
Some of the clinical signs your pet may display are:

- Altered limb function (no weight-bearing or limping)
- Reluctance to bend the knee (may be seen while sitting)
- Stiffness, especially after exercise
- Not wanting to play or exercise
- Swelling of the joint
- Clicking sound when walking

How is CCL disease diagnosed?

A veterinary examination is important to the diagnosis of CCL injury. Manipulations characteristic of knee instability can be done by your veterinarian and help with the diagnosis. Although the manipulations are not always painful to your pet, sedation provides relaxation and allows your veterinarian to more thoroughly examine the knee. X-rays will not show torn ligaments, but may be done to support the diagnosis and establish changes within the knee (such as fluid within the knee and osteoarthritis)

What are my treatment options?

The goals for treatment of CCL injury are to provide stability in the knee. This stability is designed to relieve pain, restore function and slow down the formation of osteoarthritis. Numerous surgical procedures have been described and studied, but no one treatment has been shown to be superior. Non surgical options have been described, but are often difficult to control and can have a disappointing result in active dogs.

Though no one procedure is found to be superior, the prognosis for return to function and prevention of further damage is best attained with surgical stabilization of the knee. The decision on which procedure should be performed is based upon surgeon experience with the technique, scientific data to support each technique and patient suitability for the procedure.

Present techniques can be divided into broad categories. These categories are best described as those techniques that work to replace the function of the CCL or techniques that use manipulation of the bones of the knee to provide stabilization (tibial plateau leveling osteotomy or tibial tuberosity advancement). Either procedure begins with a thorough exploration of the joint to address any other damage to internal structures of the knee (such as the meniscus).



The SwiveLock® Knotless technique is a minimally invasive technique that uses prosthetic materials designed to mimic the function of the CCL. The materials that sit on the outside of the knee (extra articular) are secured using a vented PEEK SwiveLock Suture Anchor at points biomechanically similar to the CCL. This incredibly strong prosthetic material has been used with great success in human joint stabilizing procedures and provides the temporary stabilization necessary for scar tissue formation and long-term joint stability and function.

Other techniques that provide stability through bone manipulation include the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) and the tibial tuberosity advancement (TTA). These procedures require cutting and alteration of the bone to provide weight-bearing stability. These procedures are options for those pets who have conformational issues that contribute to CCL injury and long term stability.



It is important to recognize that there is not one procedure designed to fit every case. It is crucial that you work closely with your veterinarian to form a plan that best suits your pet. The process requires a complete examination, realistic goals and a post-operative plan that allows for physical rehabilitation and rest. The commitment, regardless of surgical or non surgical choice, requires 10 – 12 weeks for healing and is enhanced by seeking support from multiple sources.

Post-op care

It is important to establish and follow a post-op plan with your veterinarian. It will most likely include restricted kennel rest when unobserved and controlled muscle building activities (i.e., leash walking) for eight weeks post-op. Professional rehabilitation is encouraged.

The information contained in this brochure is not medical advice and is not meant to be a substitute for the advice provided by a surgeon or other qualified medical professional on the use of these products. You should talk with your physician or health care provider for more information about your health condition and whether Arthrex products might be appropriate for you. The surgeon who performs any surgical procedure is responsible for determining and using the appropriate techniques for surgical procedures on each individual patient. Arthrex recommends that surgeons be trained on the use of any particular product before using it in surgery. A surgeon must always rely on their own professional medical judgment when deciding whether to use a particular product when treating a particular patient. A surgeon must always refer to the package insert, product label, and/or directions for use before using any Arthrex product. Postoperative management is patient-specific and dependent on the treating professional's assessment. Individual results will vary and not all patients will experience the same postoperative activity level or outcomes. Products may not be available in all markets because product availability is subject to the regulatory approvals and medical practices in individual markets. Please contact Arthrex if you have questions about the availability of products in your area.

Arthrex manufacturer, authorized representative, and importer information (Arthrex eIFUs)

US patent information

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