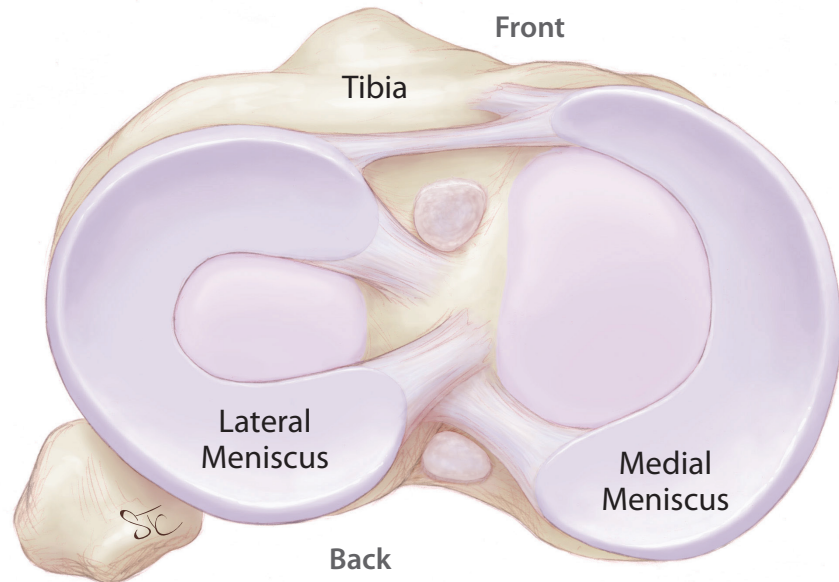


Surgical Meniscus Transplantation

Meniscus Anatomy

The knee joint is cushioned by Tibia two C-shaped menisci that sit on top of the lower leg bone (tibia). Made of cartilage, they are tough and rubbery, but can be torn by sudden twisting or deep squatting. Degenerative changes may also lead to a tear over time.

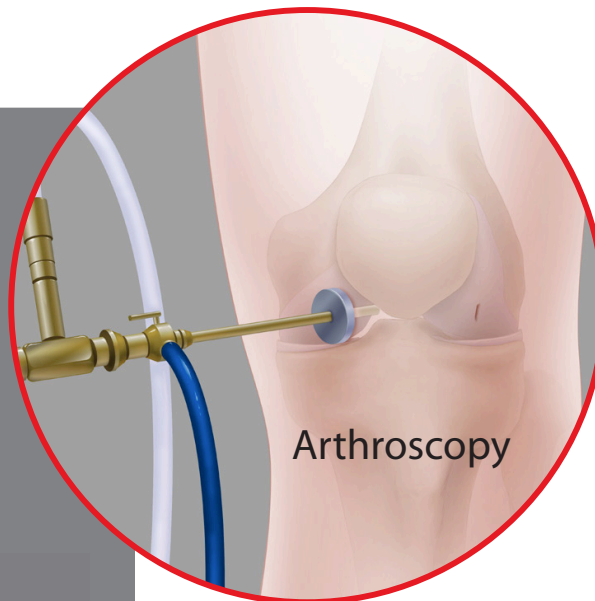
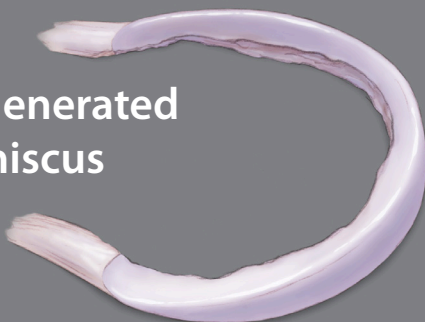
Sometimes, conservative treatment is enough for a tear to heal on its own. In other cases, however, surgery is necessary.



Healthy Meniscus



Degenerated Meniscus

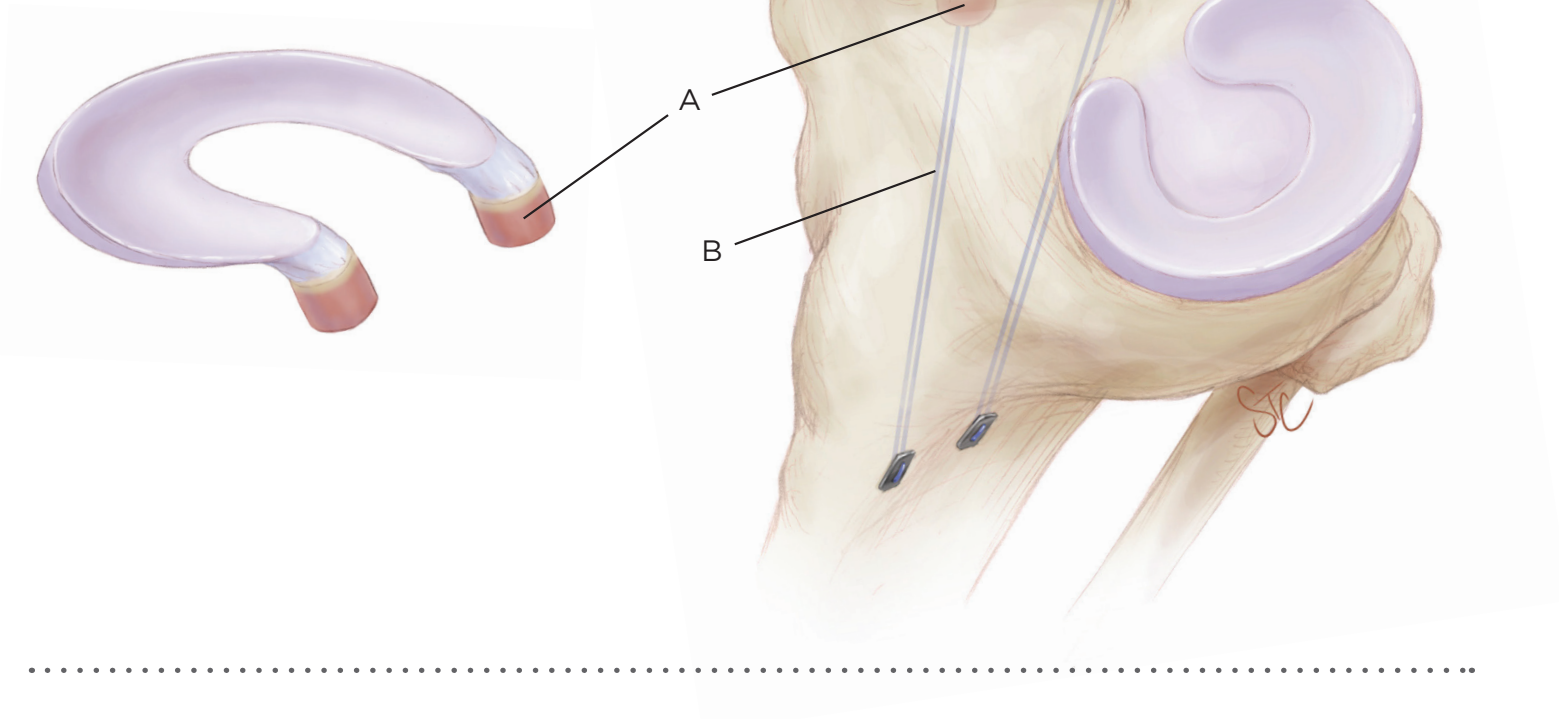


Meniscus transplantation is done arthroscopically. This is a surgical approach in which small incisions are made and a camera is inserted into the joint to view the extent of the damage.

Your surgeon may perform an arthroscopy initially to make a complete plan to address all of the pathology in the joint.

During surgery, your damaged meniscus is first removed. An allograft, or donated, meniscus (below) is prepared to be transplanted into your knee.

The graft is attached in three ways: bone plugs are press-fitted into your tibia bone (A), sutures are pulled taut through tunnels and secured with buttons lower on the tibia (B), sutures are placed around the perimeter of the meniscus to secure it to the surrounding soft tissue and joint capsule (C).



Tissue Donation is a Gift!

Each donation has come from someone who decided to improve the lives of others upon their own death. Each has been rigorously tested to make sure it can be used safely to restore your quality of life. If you would like to learn more about thanking your donor family, or to become a donor yourself, reach out to your surgical team, or visit organdonor.org.