

ARTHROSCOPY SURGERY INFORMATION SHEET

General indications for the procedure:

The indications for the procedure are to obtain diagnostic information, reduce pain, remove loose bodies, removal of soft tissue lesions or tumors, treat pre-arthritis conditions (remove spurs, treat osteochondral lesions), assist in arthrodesis or fracture reduction.

Description of Procedure:

The procedure of ankle arthroscopy consists of placing small (5mm) incisions around the ankle. Through these incisions a camera and other instruments are introduced into the ankle joint. These instruments can consist of graspers, probes, curettes, drills, awls, shavers or burrs. These instruments are used to remove loose bodies, shave soft tissue or bone, and to treat possible cartilage or bone lesions. The camera may also be used to visualize the joint surface during fracture reduction. Use of intra-operative imaging devices may be utilized to assist in the procedure. A tourniquet may be used to limit surgical bleeding during the procedure. Depending on the specific circumstances of the patient's case, this procedure can be performed with regional anesthesia or general anesthesia.

Risks of Procedure:

Risks include, but are not limited to: postoperative infection, nerve injury, tendon injury, vascular injury, postoperative bleeding, swelling, complex regional pain syndrome, development or progression of arthritis, failure of bone healing, failure of tendon healing, failure of ligament healing, failure of cartilage healing, recurrence of deformity, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, excessive scar tissue formation, continued pain, discoloration of the skin and the risks of anesthesia. Additionally, on occasion, if the indications for the procedure cannot be completed or accomplished through arthroscopy, an open incision may be required.

Alternative to Procedure:

The alternatives to surgery include non-operative treatment using medication or braces. Risks of alternative care include, but are not limited to, continued pain, continued mechanical symptoms, continued progression of lesions and progression of arthritis.

Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:

The probable consequences of refusing this procedure include, but are not limited to, continued pain, continued mechanical symptoms, continued progression of lesions and progression of arthritis.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The key portions of this procedure will be performed by the attending physician with the assistance of the Orthopaedic Resident Staff. All surgical tasks are performed in accordance with the hospital's policies and, in the case of the Residents, based on their skills set and under the supervision of the responsible Orthopedic Surgeon.