

[Rupture of the Achilles tendon--fibrin gluing or suture?]. [German]

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Publication Date: 1992

Abstract:

The rise of recreational sports activities and the incidence of ruptures of the Achilles tendons has increased simultaneously. Recently the use of fibrin sealing for surgical therapy of ruptured Achilles tendons has emerged as an alternative technique. Between 1982 and 1989 62 consecutive patients were operated for unilateral Achilles tendon rupture. Following causes for ruptures are known: 36 indirect traumas in sport (74%), 9 direct blunt injuries at occupational work (18%), 3 traffic-accidents (11%) and 1 rupture after operation of a Haglund exostosis. 25 patients (56%) were treated by suture technique and 20 patients (44%) with fibrin sealant. The mean long term follow-up of 49 months is known of 49 patients. There were 3 (12%) postoperative infections in the suture group and none in the fibrin group. After suturing the Achilles tendon 3 (12%) reruptures occurred 8-10 weeks after tendon repair and 1 (5%) rerupture after fibrin sealing. All reruptures are caused by a new adequate trauma. The time of return to social and recreational activities was 9 months in the suture group and 7 months in the fibrin group. The functional and cosmetic results after use of fibrin was significant better, and the long-term results were very satisfactory. We prefer fibrin sealing for the treatment of acute ruptures of Achilles tendons.