

1 Table 1. Patient demographics and clinical characteristics
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	Total study population (n = 91)
Gender (male/female)	23/68
Age (years)	63.3 ± 8.8
Height (m)	1.57 ± 0.09
Weight (kg)	64.8 ± 14.4
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	25.7 ± 3.6
Femorotibial angle (°)	177.1 ± 1.9
Kellgren-Lawrence grade (0/1/2/3/4)	0/35/56/0/0
Duration from injury to operation (days)	80.2 ± 61.9

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4 Continuous data are presented as mean ± standard deviation
5 Categorical data are presented as number

1 Table 2. Comparisons of characteristics of patients with tibial external rotation of $\geq 0.69^\circ$ or $< 0.69^\circ$
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	Tibial external rotation < 0.69° (n = 51)	Tibial external rotation $\geq 0.69^\circ$ (n = 40)	p-value
Gender (male/female)	13/38	10/30	n.s. ^a
Age (years)	62.4 ± 8.1	65.0 ± 7.0	n.s.
Height (m)	1.58 ± 0.1	1.57 ± 0.1	n.s.
Weight (kg)	63.1 ± 10.8	67.2 ± 16.4	n.s.
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	25.9 ± 3.1	25.7 ± 2.9	n.s.
Femorotibial angle (°)	177.2 ± 1.6	177.0 ± 3.1	n.s.
Kellgren-Lawrence grade (0/1/2/3/4)	0/19/32/0/0	0/16/24/0/0	n.s.
Duration from injury to surgery (days)	78.6 ± 67.3	82.3 ± 54.6	n.s.
Tibial external rotation (°)	- 2.3 ± 2.6	3.4 ± 2.0	< 0.001*
Meniscal healing score (points)	7.2 ± 1.6	6.1 ± 1.5	< 0.001*

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 4 Continuous data are presented as mean ± standard deviation, categorical data are presented as number
 5 Meniscal healing score at second-look arthroscopy (total, 10 points)
 6 n.s., not significant. *p < 0.05. ^a Fisher's exact test
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1 Table 3. Comparisons of clinical scores of patients with tibial external rotation of $\geq 0.69^\circ$ or $< 0.69^\circ$
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	Tibial external rotation < 0.69° (n = 51)	Tibial external rotation $\geq 0.69^\circ$ (n = 40)	p-value
IKDC score			
Preoperative score	37.4 ± 15.2	33.9 ± 16.4	n.s.
Postoperative score	69.0 ± 16.3	61.5 ± 15.3	0.019*
KOOS- Pain			
Preoperative score	55.6 ± 20.6	54.3 ± 20.0	n.s.
Postoperative score	86.3 ± 13.1	81.6 ± 14.8	n.s.
KOOS- Symptoms			
Preoperative score	62.8 ± 20.8	61.8 ± 20.1	n.s.
Postoperative score	82.3 ± 14.7	77.0 ± 16.5	n.s.
KOOS- ADL			
Preoperative score	64.3 ± 19.8	65.2 ± 19.0	n.s.
Postoperative score	88.9 ± 13.0	84.4 ± 13.4	0.048*
KOOS- Sport/Rec			
Preoperative score	22.5 ± 22.0	26.7 ± 25.6	n.s.
Postoperative score	60.7 ± 29.4	49.2 ± 28.9	n.s.
KOOS- QOL			
Preoperative score	27.5 ± 16.4	27.9 ± 19.8	n.s.
Postoperative score	68.2 ± 20.0	59.8 ± 22.3	0.031*

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 4 Continuous data are presented as mean ± standard deviation, categorical data are presented as number
 5 IKDC, International Knee Documentation Committee. KOOS, Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome
 6 Score. ADL, activities of daily living. Sport/Rec, sport and recreation function. QOL, knee-related quality
 7 of life. n.s., not significant. *p < 0.05