

Title: The Future of Meniscal Transplantation in Europe

Authors: Henrik Aagaard, Denmark
 European Meniscal Transplantation Group (EMTG)

During the past two decades experimental and clinical studies dealing with meniscal replacement have been reported from various parts of Europe, and most of them are rather recent. Studies dealing with both meniscal transplantation and other types of meniscal replacement have been reported. Meniscal replacement in Europe is currently rather sporadic and only very few clinics offer it as a routine treatment. Until recently meniscal replacement was not coordinated and formalized meeting activity were non-existent.

The health care systems in Europe vary from country to country, and there are large cultural differences from north to south and from east to west, but there seems to be an increasing European interest in the subject of meniscal replacement.

Based on an increasing need to meet and share experiences, the European Meniscal Transplantation Group (EMTG) was founded in London September 2000. The EMTG is informally affiliated to the European Society of Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery, and Arthroscopy (ESSKA), and the group plans to meet every second year during the ESSKA Congress.

The EMTG intends to establish and maintain contact with the Meniscal Transplantation Study Group in USA, and hope to benefit from their greater experience dealing in meniscal replacement. Hopefully the contact will become one of mutual benefit within the coming years. The EMTG intends to contact persons and clinics in Asia who have reported on meniscal replacement.

Those subjects that the EMTG would like to emphasize in the years to come are standards for patient evaluation, tissue banks (centralization, industry vs. healthcare system, preservation techniques, rehabilitation protocols, common clinical databases, surgical techniques, experimental animal models, coordination of future studies, development of new ideas.

The aim of the EMTG is to influence the future of meniscal transplantation, rather than to control it.