

## Reasons for Poor Recovery from TTA

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- (1) Latent meniscal tear – medial OR lateral
  - a. Resolution/options:
    - i. Wait – may take 4-6 months
    - ii. Arthroscopy/arthrotomy - meniscectomy
      1. Will increase bone-on-bone contact 300%
      2. Potential for postoperative joint infection
      3. May make the patient better
- (2) Loose implant/infection
  - a. Resolution/options:
    - i. Look for lucency around implants on radiographs
    - ii. Culture ANY draining tracts
    - iii. DO NOT give enrofloxacin & clindamycin without justification
    - iv. Remove implants 16 weeks
- (3) Collateral ligament tear – failed to detect during original procedure, or damaged postoperatively
  - a. Resolution/options: examine collateral ligaments under sedation & stress radiograph views; imbricate or repair as indicated
- (4) Caudal cruciate ligament tear – failed to detect during original procedure; result from overcorrection during procedure
  - a. Resolution/options: tenodesis lateral collateral ligament and/or caudal redirection of medial collateral ligament
- (5) Medial patellar luxation – poorly aligned plate along with large arthrotomy incisions resulting in dehiscence postoperatively; failed to assess for angular limb deformity
  - a. Resolution/options: arthrotomy & assess original approach & suture lines; may need to free-up tension band plate and osteotomy and transpose laterally; can place washers behind screw as needed to transpose; lateral fabellar to patellar suture
  - b. Assess for other causes – joint disease, cancer
- (6) Problems elsewhere in the operated leg or the opposite leg or spine
  - a. Resolution/options: re-assess entire patient, both rear limbs, lumbar spine; most common problem is RCCL in the *opposite* leg; rule out sarcoma, osteosarcoma, others
  - b. Consider second opinion, MRI spine
- (7) Subsequent disease elsewhere in the body – reassess the entire patient, collect the minimum database
- (8) Poor response to therapy (surgery) - radiograph to assess proper correction of angle patellar tendon to tibial plateau; poor technique?
- (9) Poor client aftercare – was dog properly cared for during the convalescent stage?