

Game Plan

Strategies to Help Surgeons Get Patients Back in the Game.

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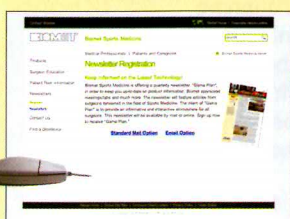
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For the Biomet Sports Medicine representative in your area call, 800.348.9500, ext. 1663.

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Introducing the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor – 2.9mm for Rotator Cuff Repair

By Scott Kuiper, M.D.

Suture anchor technology is advancing at a rapid pace. Biomet Sports Medicine, a leader in suture anchor development, currently offers ALLThread™ suture anchors made of a variety of materials (PEEK–Optima® Polymer, Titanium, and Bioabsorbable) with a modern full thread design and a Knotless anchor for secure double row repairs utilizing the lateral cortex of the greater tuberosity. Prior to the development of the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm these were my anchors of choice for rotator cuff repairs. These previous systems provide secure repairs with good pull out strength; however, the bone holes required for anchor insertion are quite large. With advanced arthroscopic methods for repairing larger tears and the utilization of double row techniques, multiple large holes take up valuable footprint space, possibly increasing the risk of greater tuberosity fracture and potential anchor impingement. In contrast, the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm is the latest in innovative technology utilizing a biologically quiet, radiolucent suture material with an equivalent pull out strength of threaded anchors.



Collaborating with Drs. David Chao, Vivek Agrawal, Patrick Connor, Don D'Alessandro, and Biomet Sports Medicine, we developed the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm. The implant is a white polyester sleeve that provides strong fixation by deploying under the cortex. The suture sleeve is loaded with a pair of #2 MaxBraid™ sutures (solid white and white with blue stripes). The implant inserter enables the anchor to be inserted through a small 2.9mm cortical drill hole. The sleeve passes through this prepared hole and is pulled back against the cortex to "set" it. Once it is set, the sleeve thickens and bunches up providing firm fixation. The smaller JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchors create a smaller "anchor footprint" leaving more rotator cuff footprint for healing. Because less bone is removed, there is increased soft tissue-to-bone contact. This also decreases the chance of tuberosity fracture or anchor collision within the humeral head. Surgeons can place anchors in locations they may find difficult using larger anchors.

The strength of the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm is evident during deployment. Developing surgeons have reported a distinct firm fixation feel while setting the anchor. During biomechanical testing, the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm was found to have excellent pullout strength equivalent to larger 5.5mm screw-in type anchors. The polyester suture sleeve makes this anchor biologically quiet and radiolucent. The unique design of this suture sleeve allows the #2 MaxBraid™ sutures to slide smoothly for knot tying once the sleeve is implanted. The soft anchor material reduces revision concerns because there is no hard material implanted. All of these advantages make the JuggerKnot™ Soft Anchor–2.9mm system a small, strong, all-suture anchor for soft tissue repair to bone.