

# Patella in TKA



LKH Stolzalpe, AUSTRIA

**Hofmann S. MD PhD**  
Head Joint Replacement  
Stolzalpe & Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi Knee & Sports Center, UAE



# Key Points

- Anterior knee pain
- Malrotation & maltracking
- Risk factors maltracking
- Proper surgical technique
- Replacing or not ?



# Anterior Knee Pain & TKA

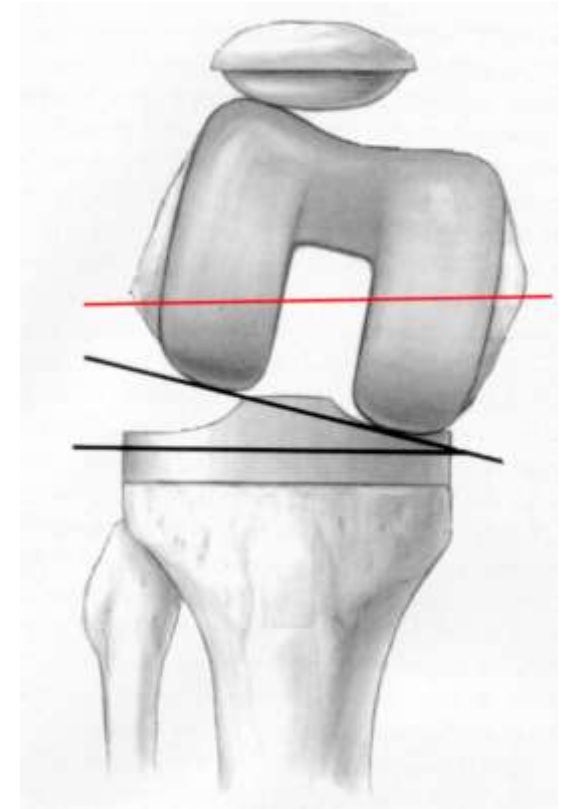
- Up to 30 % anterior knee pain
- Source of pain
  - ⇒ patella ?
  - ⇒ maltracking
  - ⇒ soft tissue overload
- Rotational malalignment  
main cause patella maltracking





# Causes Anterior Knee Pain

- Malrotation tibia & femur  
⇒ most important factor  
patella maltracking
- Unbalanced soft tissues
- Patella baja
- Anterior overstuffing
- Design



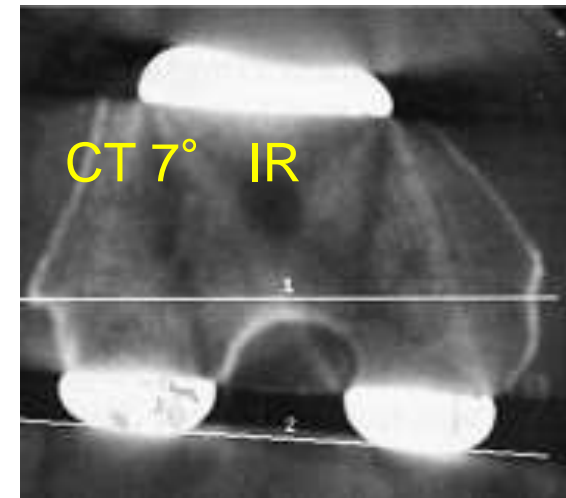
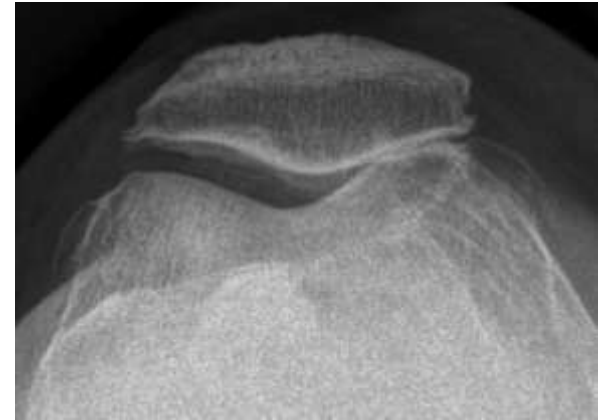
Berger et al, COOR 1998

Hofmann et al, Orthopäde, 2003

Pietsch & Hofmann, KSSTA 2011

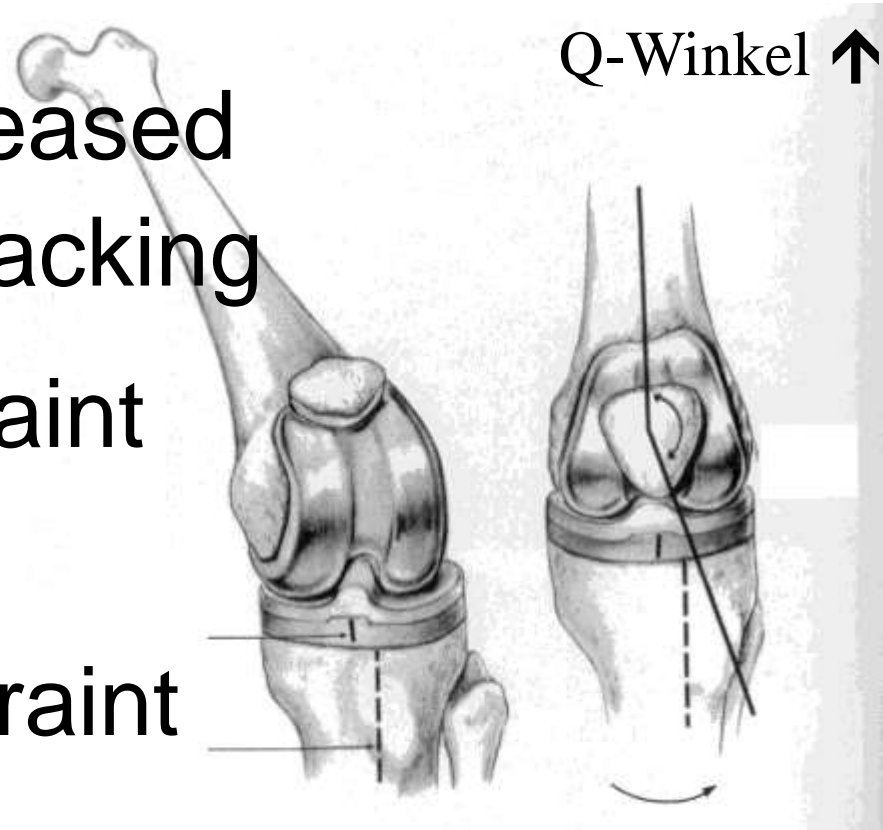
# Malrotation Definition

- Maltorsion
  - ➔ 15% TKA patients
  - ➔ patella maltracking
  - ➔ identify before & correct during surgery
- Malrotation
  - ➔ axial malalignment
  - ➔ femur and/or tibia



# Biomechanics IR Malrotation Tibia

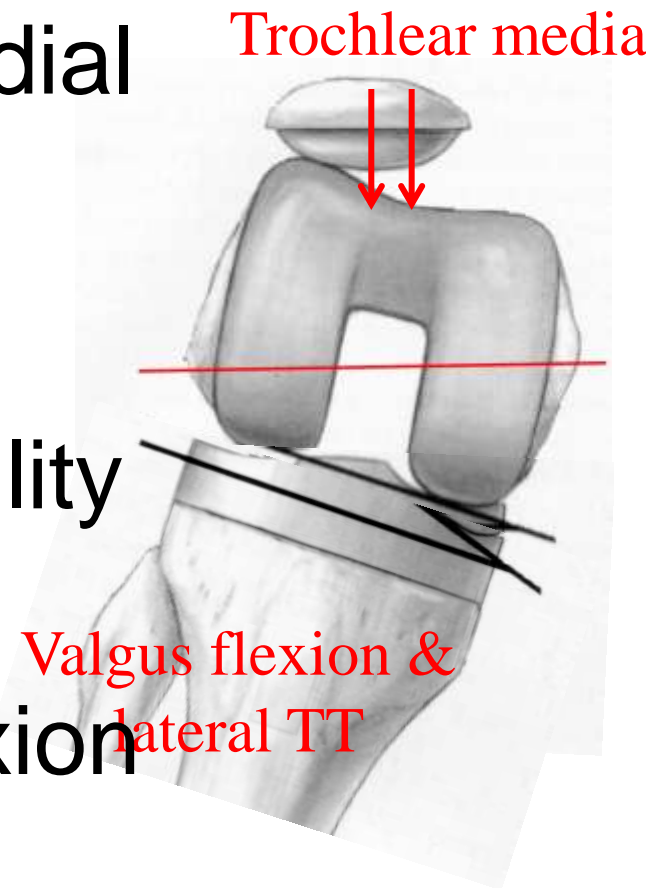
- Tibia tubercle ER
  - ⇒ Q-angle increased
  - ⇒ Patella maltracking
- 0-60° low constraint
  - ⇒ dislocation
- > 60° high constraint
  - ⇒ pain





# Biomechanics IR Malrotation Femur

- Anterior femur & flexion
  - ⇒ Trochlea groove medial
  - ⇒ increase TT-TG
- Posterior femur & flexion
  - ⇒ lateral flexion instability
- Flexion under loading
  - ⇒ valgus deformity flexion
  - ⇒ lateralization TT



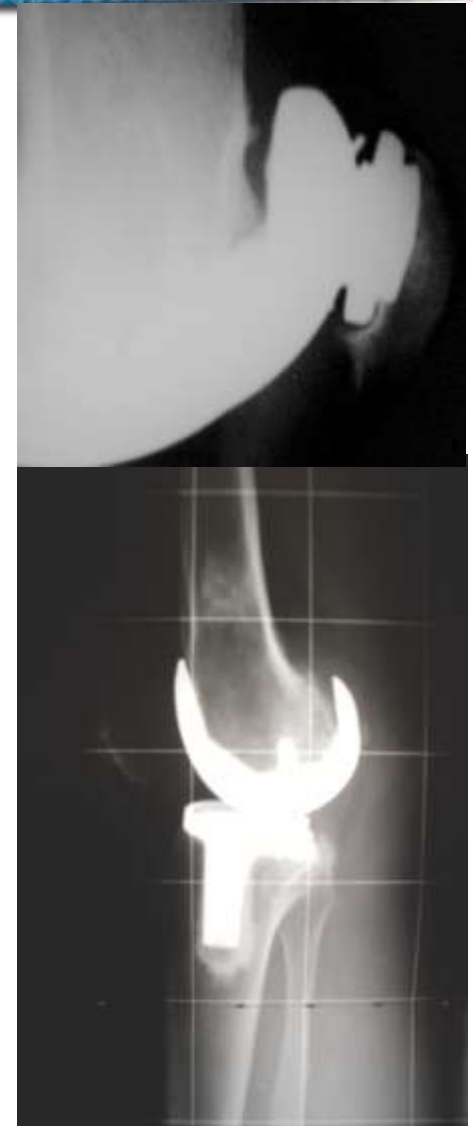


# Risk Factors Surgical Technique

- Femoral component  
internal & valgus  
flexed & anterior position
- Tibia  
internal malrotation
- Patella  
too thick  
baja (relative or absolute)

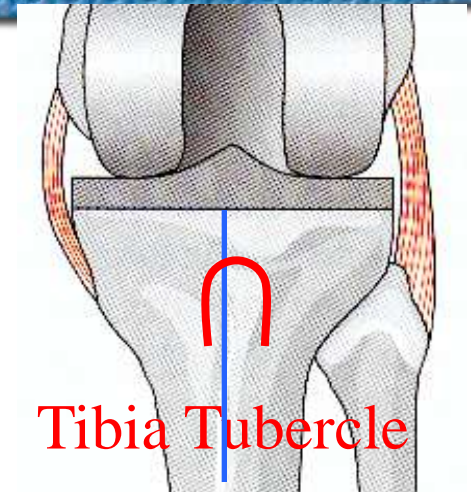
Lee J Knee Surg 2004

Brick Clin Orthop 1988



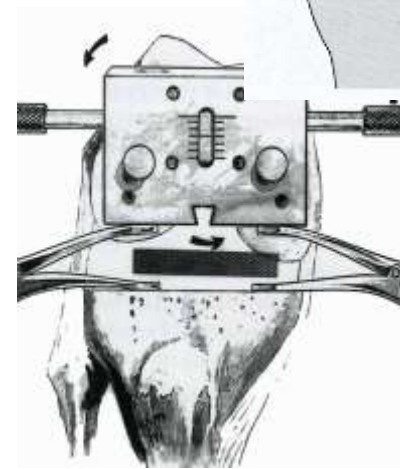
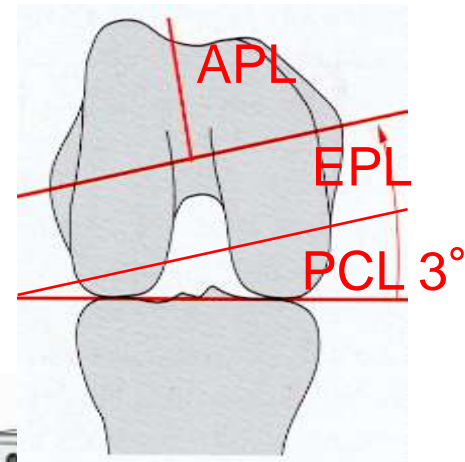
# Technique Tibia Rotation

- Prepare TT & anterior crest
- Torsional deformity ?
- Functional landmark  
⇒ TT
- Anatomical landmark  
⇒ curve on curve
- Best coverage but  
no overhang



# Technique Femur Rotation

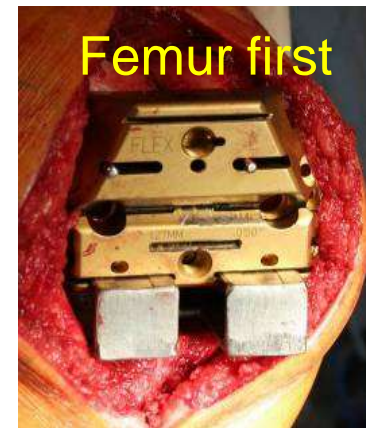
- „Femur first“ or „measured resection“
  - ⇒ bony landmarks
- „Tibia first“ or „balanced gap“
  - ⇒ balanced soft tissues
- Both have limitations
- “Extension gap first”
  - ⇒ solid compromise





# “Extension gap first” technique

- Distal femur and tibia cut
- Balance extension gap
- Femur Rotation controlled
  - ⇒ 3 bony landmarks
  - ⇒ balanced soft tissues
- Combines both philosophies



# Technique proper Replacing

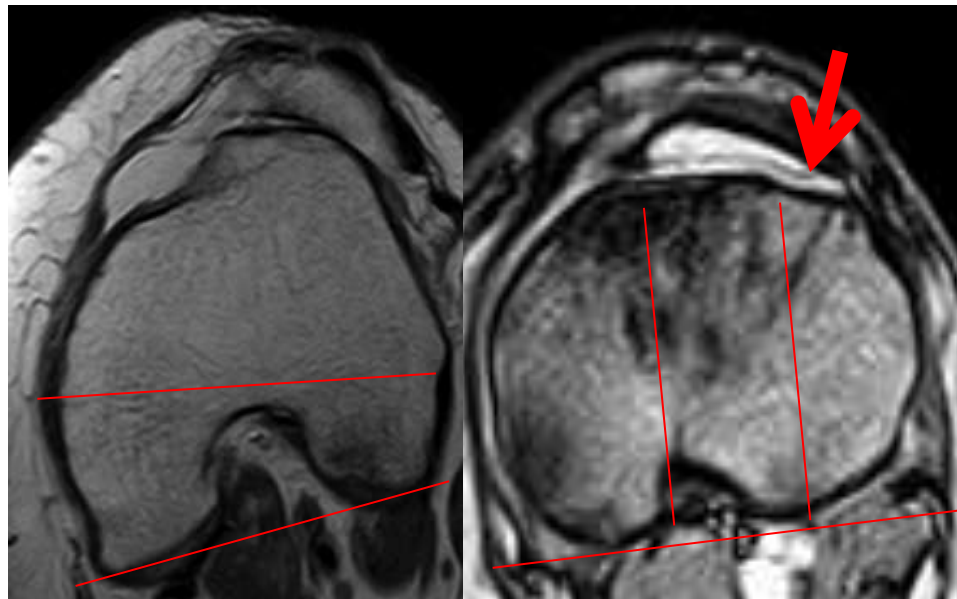
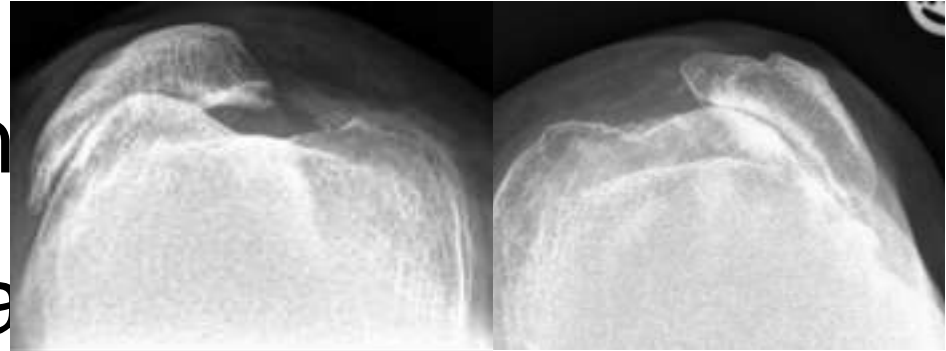
- Bone cuts  
     $\pm 2$  mm (min 10 mm)
- Same thickness  
  as before
- Position PE  
    medial &  
    cranial or distal
- Position Femur  
    3-4mm lateral



perfect patella tracking

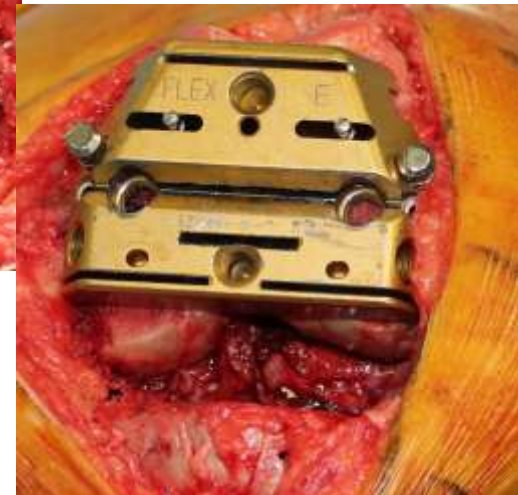
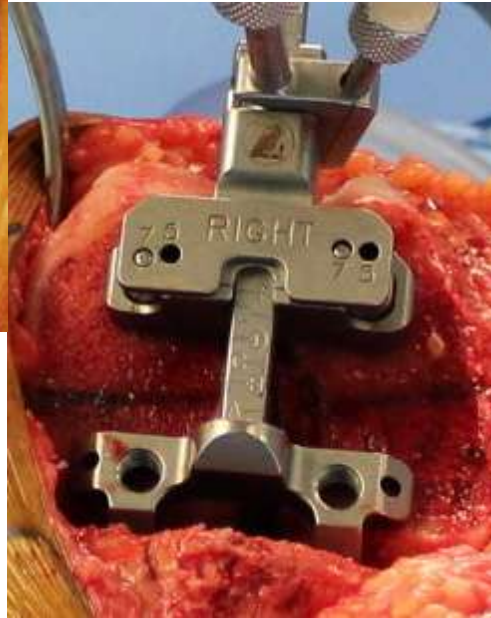
# Case Maltorsion & Maltracking

- Female 56  
bilat sub/dislocation
- Varus 1° & minimal  
tibiofemoral OA
- Rotational profile  
dysplasia C  
PCA 7° ER  
TT-PC 38 mm





# Technique Femur



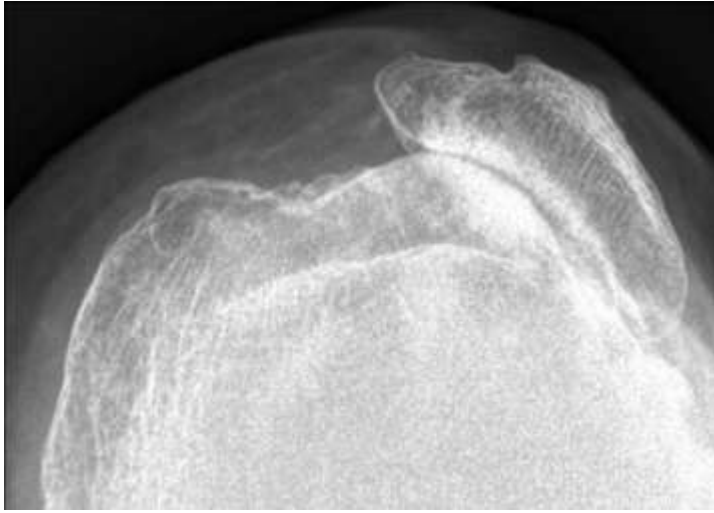
Hofmann et al, Surg Tech Knee 2011

# Technique Tibia





# Radiographic Outcome



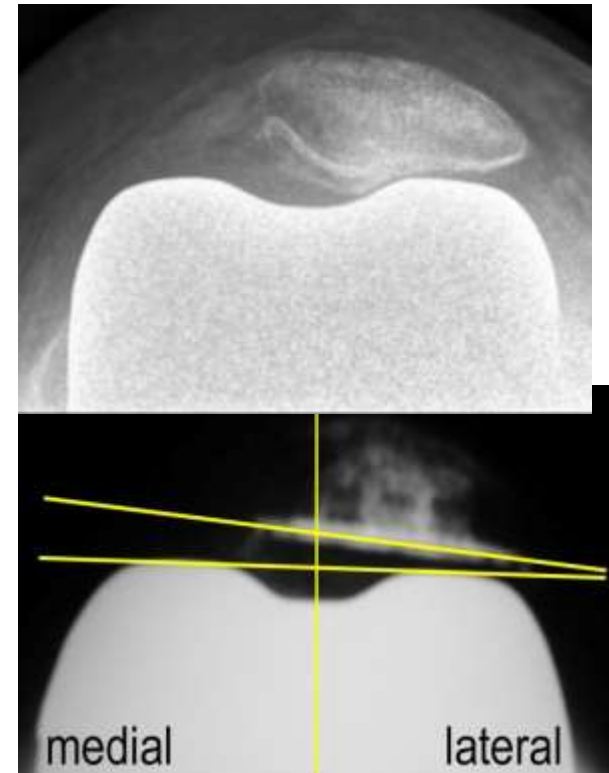


# Clinical Result 6 months post TKA



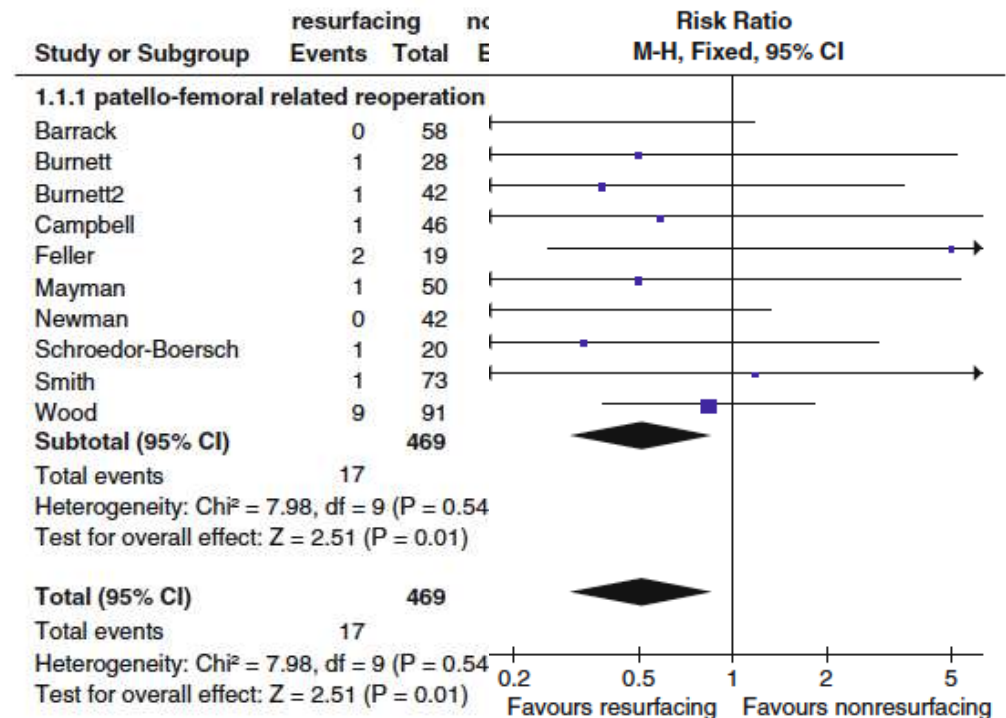
# Controversy Patella Resurfacing

- Bourne et al. 1995  
no resurfacing better (100 Pat)
- Waters et al. 2004  
resurfacing better (474)
- Burnett et al. 2004  
both equal (90 Pat)



# Meta Analysis

- 10 RCT with 1003 pat
- High quality report
- RR 4% higher
- No difference
  - ⇒ Ant knee pain
  - ⇒ KSS
  - ⇒ Function

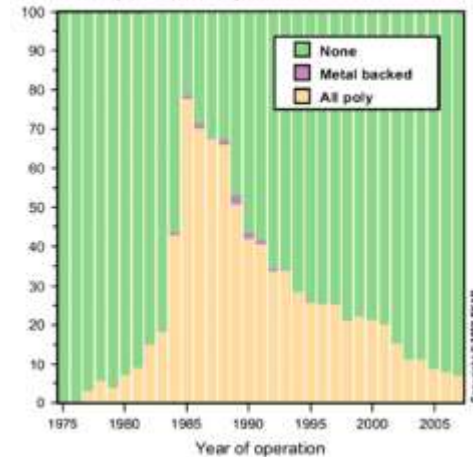




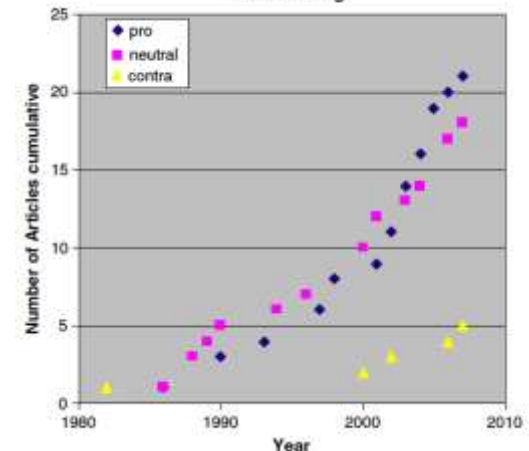
# Replacing Patella or Not ?

- Still controversial topic
  - ⇒ US vs Europe
- No difference 10 years
  - ⇒ Meta & registers
- Higher revision rate
  - ⇒ Bias & results ?
- Problem
  - ⇒ not patella

Distribution (%) of TKA with and without a patellar component



Statements in Publications Patella Resurfacing



# Summary Concept Patella

- Main cause anterior knee pain
  - ⇒ rotational malalignment
- Save technique rotational alignment
  - ⇒ Extension gap first
  - ⇒ TT & curve on curve
- Proper technique replacement
- Replacing or not
  - ⇒ philosophy
  - ⇒ no clinical difference

