SwitchCut™ Reaming System for ACL Reconstruction

Surgical Protocol by Jefferey Michaelson, M.D.

Surgical Technique
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The consulting surgeons at Zimmer Biomet Sports Medicine have spent years developing the concept of the I.D.E.A.L™ Femoral Tibial Placement Philosophy as it relates to the ACL femoral footprint. Evidence suggests that the I.D.E.A.L. femoral tunnel position should:

1) replicate the most Isometric\textsuperscript{1,2,3} fibers within the native ACL,

2) be localized in the Direct fiber\textsuperscript{4} subsection of the ACL origin based on histology,

3) be placed Equidistantly\textsuperscript{3,6,7,8,9} from the bottom and top of the notch with a tunnel backwall that is 1–2 mm thick and Eccentrically\textsuperscript{5} located high and deep within the footprint,

4) be Anatomic\textsuperscript{4,10} in that the ACL graft is within the native ACL origin, and

5) achieve a Low tension-flexion\textsuperscript{2,3,6} pattern in the ACL graft that replicates the tension-flexion behavior of the native ACL.

The SwitchCut Reamer is a powerful tool in recreating the appropriate position for ACL tunnel placement. The reamer and guide provide the flexibility for the I.D.E.A.L. placement, and are independent of the tibial tunnel and medial portal. The curved shape of the guide allows the ability to encircle the I.D.E.A.L. position and confirm placement prior to drilling the socket. It also allows the opportunity to observe the anatomic landmarks on the lateral aspect of the notch from the medial portal with an unobstructed view.

The SwitchCut Reamer is another tool in the Zimmer Biomet Sports Medicine ligament reconstruction system allowing for patient care and flexibility to the operating surgeon.
Femoral Tunnel Preparation
Insert the SwitchCut Side Specific Guide & Bullet

Insert the side specific (Right or Left) SwitchCut Femoral guide into the joint space, keeping in mind that the crescent shape tip of the femoral guide has an outer diameter of 12 mm and an inner diameter of 8 mm (Figure 1).

Insert the bullet to the lateral thigh to make an indentation in the skin. Pull back on the bullet to make a small skin incision, and then advance the bullet down to the lateral cortex (Figure 2). Note the length of the femoral tunnel on the bullet and guide system to make certain there is adequate length before proceeding with the SwitchCut reamer (Figure 2a).

Note: When placing the bullet into the SwitchCut femoral guide, orient the teeth on the bullet toward the ratchet mechanism on the SwitchCut guide body.
Create a Femoral Tunnel with the SwitchCut Reamer

Ream in a clockwise forward direction through the lateral cortex into the joint space (Figures 3 & 3a).

Once the SwitchCut tip has penetrated the entrance of the joint, as shown in Figure 3a, then rotate the bullet 90°. Remove the SwitchCut guide from the joint space, leaving the bullet in place (Figure 4).
Create a Femoral Tunnel with the SwitchCut Reamer (cont.)

Use a mallet to gently tap the bullet into the lateral cortex bone until it bottoms out on the positive stop (Figure 5).

Advance the tip of the SwitchCut reamer to the bold black line. This will zero out the SwitchCut reamer (Figure 6). Once the black etched line is aligned with the intra-articular entrance, slide the O-ring to the back of the bullet (Figure 6a).
Ream the Femoral Socket

Ream in a counterclockwise (reverse) direction to drill the femoral socket. The arm on the SwitchCut reamer will automatically deploy as soon as it contacts bone (Figure 7). Ensure the drill is running at a maximum counterclockwise speed and maintain a constant and slow retro reaming motion. While retro reaming, count the etch marks on the SwitchCut reamer to determine the femoral socket depth, knowing that each etch line represents 5 mm (Figure 7a).

If desired, retro-ream until the SwitchCut reamer bottoms out on the bullet tip, which will leave a 7 mm bone bridge. Do NOT continue to ream once the reamer makes contact with the bullet, as this may cause the tip of the reamer to break. Then disconnect the Jacobs® Chuck from the SwitchCut reamer.
Shuttle the Nitinol Loop Passer

Remove the blue handled k-wire by twisting counterclockwise (reverse) (Figure 8) and pass the Nitinol loop passer, kite side first, down the SwitchCut reamer as shown (Figure 8a).
Shuttle the Nitinol Loop Passer (cont.)

Pass the Nitinol loop passer until it is seen in the joint space. Use a suture retriever to pull the loop passer out of the joint space (Figures 9 and 9a).

Note: Once the loop passer is out of the joint space, gently remove the SwitchCut reamer by hand with a clockwise twisting motion. When the SwitchCut reamer has been withdrawn, bring both ends of the Nitinol wire together and clamp them using a hemostat.
Tibial Tunnel Preparation

**Note:** If using the same sized SwitchCut reamer on the tibia, re-insert and thread the blue handled k-wire back into reamer.

**Ream the Tibial Tunnel**

Insert the tibial SwitchCut guide into the joint space and center the tip on the desired position within the anatomic tibial footprint (Figure 10).

Ream in a clockwise direction through the lateral cortex into the joint space until the SwitchCut reamer hits the elbow of the tibial guide (Figures 11 and 11a). Rotate the bullet 90° and remove the tibial guide from the joint space.
Ream the Tibial Tunnel (cont.)

Ream in a counterclockwise (reverse) direction to drill the tibial tunnel. The arm on the SwitchCut reamer will automatically deploy as soon as it contacts bone (Figure 12). Ensure the drill is running at a maximum counterclockwise speed and maintain a constant and slow retro reaming motion.

Note: If necessary, use a rasp, rongeur, or impingement rod to clean up the distal tibial cortical hole.

Retrieval and Removal of Nitinol Loop Passer

After creating the tibial tunnel, retrieve the Nitinol loop passer from the joint space and pull the Nitinol loop passer through the tibial tunnel for passing of the implant (Figure 13).

Final Femoral and Tibial Implant Fixation

Reference the ToggleLoc™ Fixation Device surgical technique for femoral fixation (0384.2-GLBL) and reference the TunneLoc® Tibial Fixation surgical technique for tibial fixation (0387.1-GLBL).
### Ordering Information

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Indications for Use

**SwitchCut Reamer**

**INTENDED USE**
The SwitchCut Reamer is intended for creating stepped tunnels and/or undercuts in bone for orthopedic reconstruction surgeries.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**
The SwitchCut Reamer is NOT intended for use where one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Anatomic conditions requiring a bend radius.
- Use of device in patients with any known allergies or reactions to stainless steel and Nitinol.
- Physical conditions that would retard healing, such as blood supply limitation and infection.
- Conditions which tend to limit the patient’s ability or willingness to follow instructions during the healing period.

**ACL/PCL Guide System**

**INTENDED USE**
The ACL/PCL Guide System is intended to guide the SwitchCut reamer while creating graft tunnels during Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL) reconstruction surgeries.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**
The ACL/PCL Guide System for SwitchCut Reamer is NOT intended for use where one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Anatomic conditions requiring bend radius.
- Insufficient quantity or quality or cortical bone for fixation.
- Use of device in patients with any known allergies or reactions to stainless steel and Nitinol.
- Physical conditions that would retard healing, such as blood supply limitation and infection.
- Conditions which tend to limit the patient’s ability or willingness to follow instructions during the healing period.
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References


