

# Cartilage Restoration for Isolated Patellar Chondral Defects

## An Updated Systematic Review

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**Background:** Patellar chondral lesions can be particularly challenging to manage in younger and more active populations.

**Purpose:** To synthesize, organize, and summarize the results and complication rates of various patellar cartilage restoration techniques.

**Study Design:** Systematic review; Level of evidence, 4.

**Methods:** We performed this systematic review according to the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines using the Medline, Embase, Scopus, and Cochrane databases. Studies were included that reported on surgical treatment of patellar chondral defects with  $\geq 5$  patients and 12 months of follow-up data. Relevant demographic data from the included studies were extracted, and patient-reported outcome scores, visual analog scale for pain results, return-to-sport rate, complications, and concomitant procedures were documented.

**Results:** There were 24 studies that met the inclusion criteria, with a total of 575 patients (male,  $n = 239$ ; female,  $n = 336$ ). In total, 6 surgical techniques were utilized. In 9 studies, the surgical procedure of choice was osteochondral autograft transplantation (OAT); 8 studies evaluated autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI); 3 evaluated advanced microfracture/autologous matrix-induced chondrogenesis; 1 evaluated osteochondral allograft transplantation (OCA); 1 evaluated particulate juvenile articulated cartilage; and 2 evaluated a synthetic osteochondral graft. No uniform functional outcome score or assessment was utilized across studies. OAT was predominantly used for smaller chondral lesions ( $< 2 \text{ cm}^2$ ) and demonstrated minimal complication rates and satisfactory outcome scores. Advanced microfracture techniques showed promise, with improvement in outcome scores and zero complications. Matrix-induced ACI consistently exhibited higher mean improvement in the measured outcome scores and resulted in fewer complications when compared with previous generations of ACI.

**Conclusion:** OAT and ACI were the most studied procedures for isolated patellar chondral defects. Advanced microfracture techniques showed promise, but indications (ie, size) and variability in techniques need to be elucidated in higher-level studies. Further prospective studies comparing OCA and matrix-induced ACI for larger patellar defects are necessary to determine the superior technique.

**Keywords:** patella; restoration; cartilage; defects

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The articular surface of the patella withstands high forces. Patellofemoral contact pressures reach up to 6.5 times body mass during daily activities with the knee flexed to  $90^\circ$ .<sup>19</sup> Eventually, repetitive compression (eg, high activity level, obesity) or acute trauma may cause injury to the articular surface. Patellar chondral defects, if left untreated, may cause pain and functional disturbance. These defects can prevent the normal force distribution in the patellofemoral joint, which creates the potential for chondral injury and

progression to osteochondral injury.<sup>2</sup> Patellar chondral lesions are not uncommon and appear in over one-third of the patients undergoing knee arthroscopy.<sup>6,13,40</sup> These problems can be particularly challenging to manage in younger and more active populations.<sup>28</sup>

Cartilage restoration techniques historically were stratified into reparative and restorative approaches, although not all approaches fit into a specific pathway. Traditional techniques include microfracture (MF), autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI), osteochondral autograft transplantation (OAT), and osteochondral allograft transplantation (OCA). Newer techniques have blended the categories with the goal of filling chondral defects with

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hyaline-like cartilage. Although there are many surgical options to restore the articular surface of the patella, there is lack of consensus regarding the preferred treatment.<sup>39</sup>

The patella and trochlea, while dynamically related, have intrinsic differences that previous systematic reviews failed to distinguish. The trochlea has areas of thin cartilage (range, 2–3 mm), while the patella has the thickest articular cartilage layer in the human body ( $\leq 7$  mm).<sup>21,31,34</sup> The patella has a convex surface and a varying patellar ridge, while the trochlea has a concave surface with varying depth.<sup>11</sup> Access to the patella versus the trochlea may affect surgical treatment options for cartilage-defect management. Given its anatomic specificities, patellar chondral defects should be managed according to outcomes and data exclusively regarding the patella. Two prior systematic reviews attempted to aggregate outcomes specifically related to patellar cartilage defects. The systematic review by Noyes and Barber-Westin<sup>28</sup> did not include all traditional techniques but rather patellofemoral arthroplasty, which involves replacing cartilage rather than restoring it. Yet, the review conducted by Mouzopoulos et al<sup>25</sup> did not include OCA, and 1 of the studies evaluated only tibial tubercle osteotomy (TTO) without cartilage restoration.

During the past 8 years, there have been advances in cartilage restoration options for the knee, such as particulate juvenile articular cartilage (PJAC), augmented/advanced MF (aMF; MF bone marrow stimulation augmented with a collagen matrix and fibrin glue), and the newest generation of ACI: matrix-induced ACI (MACI). Consequently, no updated or inclusive systematic review exists of true cartilage restoration options for the patella. Moreover, previous reviews failed to present results based on the size of the defect. Noyes and Barber-Westin<sup>28</sup> evaluated chondral defects  $>4$  cm<sup>2</sup>, while Mouzopoulos et al<sup>25</sup> did not control for size of the defect. Previous reviews included arthroplasty and procedures known to produce fibrocartilage.<sup>34,42</sup>

The purpose of this updated systematic review was to organize and summarize the results and complication rates of various patellar cartilage restoration techniques.

## METHODS

This systematic review serves to summarize the literature on clinical results of different surgical restoration treatments for patellar cartilage lesions. This review was performed according to the PRISMA guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses).

## Search Strategy

A search strategy was constructed to retrieve the most relevant yield on surgical approaches for patellar cartilage lesions. All searches were conducted on July 19, 2022, by a single author (E.G.) using the Medline, Embase, Scopus, and Cochrane databases (2010 to present). A combination of keywords, with truncation, and indexing terms were used (when available) to combine the 2 concepts of patellar cartilage injury and specific surgical procedure, including but not limited to aMF/AMIC (autologous matrix-induced chondrogenesis), ACI, Novocart (Aesculap), mosaicplasty, OAT, and OCA. No filters or limiters were applied. The results were deduplicated using Covidence software, which facilitated and managed the screening and extraction process. Figure 1 presents a PRISMA diagram of our method to achieve these results.

## Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were included if they consisted of patients with isolated patellar cartilage lesions detected by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), or arthroscopy; conducted a minimum 12-month follow-up; and investigated a surgical cartilage restoration procedure to treat isolated patellar cartilage lesions that included but was not limited to the following techniques: aMF, ACI, OAT, OCA, PJAC, or a synthetic graft. The studies must have reported clinical outcomes, been written in English, had a minimum of 5 knees, and had any level of evidence.

Studies were excluded if they did not report clinical results; used nonsurgical treatment (ie, injections); were cadaveric, biomechanical, or basic science studies; were editorials, commentaries, case reports, reviews, surgical technique reviews, abstracts, or conference papers; had  $<5$  knees; or were not written in English.

## Study Selection

A total of 2840 studies were filtered from all databases. All studies were transferred to covidence.org, and 3 authors (R.M.P, E.G, N.W.) were granted access to screen the studies. Duplicate studies were then removed. This left 1537 studies to be screened by 2 authors (E.G, N.W.), who reviewed the abstracts independently. Any discrepancies between authors were resolved by the senior author (R.M.P.). A total of 223 publications were selected for full-text screening. Of these, 24 studies were eligible to be included in the study. All references from the studies were

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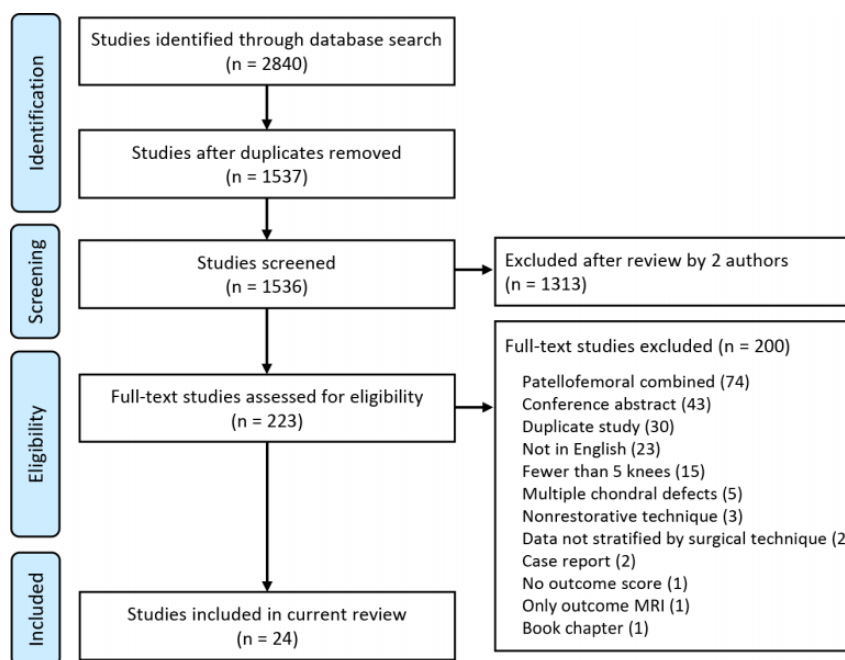
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**Figure 1.** PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) diagram of study inclusion and exclusion. MRI, magnetic resonance imaging.

reviewed to verify that no relevant publications were missing from the systematic review.

The studies were classified by the levels of evidence for therapeutic studies provided by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine.<sup>7</sup> All studies were considered to have an evidence level of 3B or 4.

### Extracted Data

Relevant demographic data were extracted: author names, year of publication, journal of publication, level of evidence, sample size, patient demographics (age, sex, surgical history, symptoms), details of the surgery (implant diameter, type of surgery, lesion size, location of lesion on the patella, concomitant procedures, number of plugs), preoperative range of motion and imaging, and outcome scores. Relevant follow-up data were extracted as well: follow-up time, second-look arthroscopy, postoperative imaging, return to activity/sports and range of motion, and complications (rate and number).

## RESULTS

Overall, there were 24 studies<sup>||</sup> with a total of 575 patients (239 male, 336 female) treated for patellar chondral defects. Study characteristics are summarized in Table 1. No uniform score or assessment was utilized to assess the functional status of patients. However, all the studies performed a functional postoperative assessment, a pain score assessment, or both. The most utilized functional

outcome measures were the International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC; 13 studies<sup>¶</sup>), Lysholm (9 studies<sup>#</sup>), Tegner (8 studies<sup>3,8,11,15,30,35-37</sup>), Kujala (7 studies<sup>2,3,10,11,15,23,36</sup>), and the 36-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-36) (6 studies<sup>2,10,18,20,26,38</sup>).

Fourteen studies<sup>\*\*</sup> were prospective while 10 studies<sup>8,16,17,23,27,35-38,41</sup> were retrospective. Appendix Table A1 provides information regarding outcome scores and complications.

### Diagnostic Assessment of Cartilage

Most of the studies (17/24; 71%) utilized MRI as a part of the advanced imaging evaluation. Three studies<sup>2,3,15</sup> (12.5%) used diagnostic arthroscopy for evaluation of the cartilage lesion, and another 3 studies<sup>15,16,35</sup> (12.5%) used conventional CT preoperatively. One study<sup>37</sup> (4.1%) performed MRI and CT for evaluation of chondral injuries.

### Type of Surgical Treatment

In total, 6 surgical techniques were utilized. In 9 studies,<sup>2,3,8,10,12,14,26,37,41</sup> the surgical procedure of choice was OAT for patellar cartilage lesions. Eight studies<sup>15,16,18,22,23,27,35,38</sup> evaluated the ACI technique on the patella. Of these, 4 studies<sup>16,18,35,38</sup> analyzed first-generation ACI; 1 study<sup>15</sup> examined MACI; 2 studies<sup>23,27</sup> reviewed all generations without differentiation; and 1

<sup>||</sup>References 2–4, 8, 10–12, 14–18, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 32, 35–38, 41.

<sup>¶</sup>References 8, 12, 16–18, 23, 26, 27, 30, 32, 35–37.

<sup>#</sup>References 2, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 35, 37, 41.

<sup>\*\*</sup>References 2–4, 10–12, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22, 26, 30, 32.

TABLE 1  
Characteristics of the Included Studies<sup>a</sup>

Lead Author (Year)	Operative Procedure	Age, y, Mean ± SD (Range)	No. of Patients (M:F); Knees	Location
Astur (2014) <sup>2</sup>	OAT	37.6 (16-59)	33 (17:16); 33	13 lateral, 13 medial, 5 both, 2 central
Astur (2017) <sup>3</sup>	OAT	— (26-45)	20 (9:11); 20	12 lateral, 8 medial
Becher (2015) <sup>4</sup>	aMF <sup>b</sup>	27 (15-40)	5 (3:2); 5	1 lateral, 3 medial, 1 central
Chadli (2017) <sup>8</sup>	Mosaicplasty	15 (12-17)	7 (5:2); 8	4 central, 3 central, 1 superolateral
Cohen (2012) <sup>10</sup>	OAT	38.06 ± 13.38	17 (8:9); 17	9 lateral, 7 medial, 1 central
Dhollander (2011) <sup>11</sup>	aMF <sup>c</sup>	27 (24-45)	5 (3:2); 5	—
Figueroa (2011) <sup>12</sup>	OAT	20.2 (15-38)	10 (10:0); 10	—
Gaweda (2006) <sup>14</sup>	OAT	25.5	19 (—); 19	—
Gigante (2009) <sup>15</sup>	MACI	31 (25-35)	12 (6:6); 14	5 medial, 7 diffuse
Gillogly (2014) <sup>16</sup>	ACI (periosteal)	31.2 ± 7	23 (11:12); 25	6 lateral, 3 medial, 3 distal, 13 central/diffuse
Gracitelli (2015) <sup>17</sup>	OCA: shell technique	33.7 (14-64)	27 (13:14); 28	—
Henderson (2006) <sup>18</sup>	ACI (periosteal)	■ ACI + TTO: 32.1 (17-56) ■ ACI: 35.1 (14-55)	■ ACI + TTO: 22; 22 ■ ACI: 22; 22 ■ All: 44 (21:23); 44	9 lateral, 10 medial, 6 distal, 19 proximal/diffuse
Joshi (2012) <sup>20</sup>	Synthetic graft <sup>d</sup>	33.6 (17-49)	10 (4:6); 10	2 lateral, 3 medial, 1 distal, 4 diffuse
Macmull (2012) <sup>22</sup>	ACI-C (collagen I/II membrane sutured to the defect), MACI	■ ACI-C: 34.6 (17-50) ■ MACI: 35 (21-46) ■ All: 34.8 (17-50)	■ ACI-C: 25 (5:20); 25 ■ ACI: 23 (9:14); 2 ■ All: 48 (14:34); 48	■ All: 13 lateral, 20 medial, 15 multifaceted ■ ACI-C: 6 lateral, 8 medial, 11 multifaceted ■ MACI: 7 lateral, 12 medial, 4 multifaceted
Mehl (2019) <sup>23</sup>	ACI	33.2 ± 10	78 (32:46); 78	14 lateral, 29 medial, 36 ridge
Nho (2008) <sup>26</sup>	OAT (Arthrex)	30 ± 12 (15-57)	22 (12:10); 22	9 lateral, 5 medial, 6 central, 2 inferior
Niemeyer (2008) <sup>27</sup>	MACI (BioSeed-C)	34.3 ± 10.1	70 (—); 70	—
Perdisa (2017) <sup>30</sup>	—	30 ± 10	34 (18:16); 34	—
Sadlik (2017) <sup>32</sup>	aMF <sup>e</sup>	36 (22-52)	12 (7:5); 12	3 lateral, 1 medial, 8 central
Teo (2013) <sup>35</sup>	ACI (periosteal), BMSC with periosteal patch	16.8 (12-21)	23 (19:4); 23	—
Tompkins (2013) <sup>36</sup>	PJAC with fibrin glue (De Novo)	26.4 ± 9.1	13 (6:9); 15	6 medial, 3 central, 3 inferior, 3 medial+central
Visona (2010) <sup>37</sup>	OAT/mosaicplasty	20.5 ± 9.2 (14-39)	6 (4:2); 6	2 superolateral, 2 mediolateral, 1 inferolateral, 1 medial
von Keudell (2017) <sup>38</sup>	ACI (periosteal)	32 ± 10 (15-49)	30 (12:18); 30	—
Yonetani (2019) <sup>41</sup>	OAT (Zimmer)	38 ± 8.8 (27-51)	6 (5:1); 6	—

<sup>a</sup>Dashes indicate data not available. ACI, autologous chondrocyte implantation; ACI-C, autologous chondrocyte implantation–collagen; aMF, advanced microfracture; BMSC, bone marrow stem cell; F, female; M, male; MACI, matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation; OAT, osteochondral autograft transplantation; OCA, osteochondral allograft transplantation; PJAC, particulate juvenile articular cartilage; TTO, tibial tubercle osteotomy.

<sup>b</sup>Microfracture + resorbable textile polyglycolic acid hyaluronan implant (membrane) secured with smart nail (open).

<sup>c</sup>(Microfracture + collagen matrix to cover the defect + fibrin glue) + platelet-rich plasma.

<sup>d</sup>Synthetic resorbable osteochondral scaffold plug (TruFit CB) + synthetic resorbable biphasic implants (composite hydrophilic polymer composed of polylactide coglycolide, calcium sulfate, and polyglycolide fibers).

<sup>e</sup>Microfracture + collagen matrix to cover the defect + fibrin glue (all arthroscopic).

study<sup>22</sup> compared second-generation ACI with MACI. No study solely evaluated second-generation ACI.

Patellar chondral defects are commonly treated via an open approach in which a parapatellar arthrotomy is made, and the patella is everted to gain access. However, some techniques are amenable to arthroscopic intervention.

Typically, these are augmented or aMF techniques. aMF was evaluated in 3 studies.<sup>4,11,32</sup>

Last, 1 study<sup>17</sup> evaluated OCA; 1 study<sup>36</sup> evaluated PJAC; and 2 studies<sup>20,30</sup> evaluated a synthetic osteochondral graft. Of the 575 operations performed, 230 were conducted with concomitant procedures. In most of the studies, no further

information was provided; thus, we were unable to differentiate the results from solitary cartilage restoration.

#### Advanced Microfracture

Three studies<sup>4,11,32</sup> reviewed aMF for the treatment of patellar chondral defects. In all 3 studies, scores on the postoperative IKDC, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), and visual analog scale (VAS) all showed improvement as compared with their preoperative baselines. Two of the 3 studies did not provide a mean lesion size; however, Dhollander et al<sup>11</sup> reported a median lesion size of 2 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 1-3 cm<sup>2</sup>). Sadlik et al<sup>32</sup> evaluated 12 patients who underwent MF augmented with a collagen matrix combined with fibrin glue (ie, the AMIC technique) to address the patellar cartilage defect arthroscopically. The mean age was 36 years (range, 22-52 years), and the mean follow-up was 38 months (range, 24-70 months). Five patients had a concomitant procedure, including 2 with a TTO. The size of the defect was not provided, and the authors cited zero complications. Becher et al<sup>4</sup> examined 5 patients with a mean age of 27 years (range, 15-40 years) who were treated via the open approach using aMF with subsequent overlay of a cell-free chondrotissue polyglycolic acid-hyaluronan implant. The mean size of the defect was 4 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 3-5 cm<sup>2</sup>). There were no complications at the mean follow-up of 21 months (range, 11-31 months).

Dhollander et al<sup>11</sup> reported on 5 patients treated via aMF combined with a platelet-rich plasma gel, which was held in place by sutures. The mean age was 27 years (range, 24-45 years). At the 24-month follow-up, intralesional osteophytes were observed in 3 of the 5 patients. Two patients (40%) developed hypertrophy of the repair tissue, and 1 of these 2 patients underwent an arthroscopy because of catching attributed to the hypertrophy. Three patients (60%) had incomplete filling of the defect after 12 months.

#### First-Generation ACI

Four studies<sup>16,18,35,38</sup> evaluated first-generation ACI. Teo et al<sup>35</sup> did not report on lesion size, while the mean lesion size for the 3 other studies ranged from 2.92 to 6.4 cm<sup>2</sup>. Gillogly and Arnold<sup>16</sup> evaluated 23 patients (25 knees; mean  $\pm$  SD age, 31.2  $\pm$  7 years) treated by ACI with concomitant procedures. The mean follow-up was 7.6 years (range, 5.1-11.4 years), and the mean lesion size was 6.4 cm<sup>2</sup>. All postoperative outcome scores showed improvement versus baseline and a reoperation rate of 40% (10/25 knees), with 9 (36%) of the reoperations being necessitated by periosteal graft hypertrophy. One patient experienced a failure at 5.9 years postoperatively and underwent patellofemoral arthroplasty. Henderson and Lavigne<sup>18</sup> examined 44 patients treated with ACI. Half of the patients (n = 22; group A) underwent a concomitant TTO while the other half (group B) underwent patellar ACI only. The mean follow-up was 26.2 months (range, 9-52 months) and 28.9 months (range, 11-55 months), respectively, and the mean lesion sizes were 2.92 and 3.22 cm<sup>2</sup>. The mean ages were 32.1 years (range, 17-56) and 35.1 years (range, 14-55). At

24 months, all postoperative outcome scores showed improvement when compared with baseline, and the group with concomitant procedures demonstrated better improvement in their IKDC scores (36.2 vs 22.3;  $P < .006$ ). The total reoperation rate was 52.2% (23 of 44). Group A had 10 reoperations while group B had 13.

Teo et al<sup>36</sup> reported on 23 young patients with a mean age of 16.8 years (range, 12-21 years); all had osteochondritis dissecans and were treated with solitary ACI. The mean follow-up was 6 years (range, 2-11 years), and the mean lesion size was not indicated. These patients had improvement in every outcome score postoperatively and an 8% complication rate (2 patients) attributed to graft hypertrophy. von Keudell et al<sup>38</sup> studied 30 patients with a mean age of 32  $\pm$  10 years (range, 15-49 years) treated with ACI and concomitant TTO for a mean follow-up of 7.3 years (range, 2-14.6 years). The mean lesion size was 4.7 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 2.2-30 cm<sup>2</sup>). They found improvement in every outcome score postoperatively and a complication rate of 60% (18 patients). Additionally, after 2007, an unspecified number of patients involved in this study were treated with second-generation ACI, involving a collagen membrane (ACI-C), although these patients were not differentiated in the study. For these patients, a standardized collagen membrane (Biogide; Geistlich Pharma) was used. The periosteal graft hypertrophy rate in this study was 18.8% for first-generation ACI and 12.5% for second-generation ACI-C.

In all of the first-generation ACI studies reviewed, periosteal graft hypertrophy/extrusion appeared as the most common complication (Table 1).

#### Third-Generation ACI (MACI)

Two studies<sup>15,22</sup> reported on MACI and/or MACI differentiated from other ACI generations studied. The mean lesion size ranged from 4 to 4.7 cm<sup>2</sup>. Gigante et al<sup>15</sup> evaluated 12 patients (14 knees) who were treated with MACI and TTO with a mean lesion size of 4 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 3-9 cm<sup>2</sup>). The mean age was 31 years (range, 25-35 years), and the mean follow-up was 36 months. All postoperative outcome measures showed improvement. Two knees (14%) required screw removal but with no complications specific to the cartilage treatment. Macmull et al<sup>22</sup> examined 48 patients using 2 generations of ACI. Of these, 25 patients were treated with ACI-C and 23 with MACI. The mean ages were 34.6 years (range, 17-50 years) and 35 years (range, 21-46 years), respectively. The mean follow-up was 45 and 35.3 months, and the mean lesion sizes were 4.7 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 1-8.7 cm<sup>2</sup>) and 4.6 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 1-10.5 cm<sup>2</sup>). The mean postoperative modified Cincinnati and VAS scores showed improvement for both groups pre- to postoperatively, and no statistically significant difference was observed between ACI-C and MACI.

Two studies<sup>23,28</sup> evaluated all 3 generations of ACI and found no differentiation in outcomes and results among the technique types. The range of lesion sizes for these 2 studies was 4.3 to 4.8 cm<sup>2</sup>. Niemeyer et al<sup>27</sup> evaluated 70 patients with various generations of ACI. The mean age was 34.3  $\pm$  10.1 years, and the mean follow-up was 38.4 months (range,

14-64 months). The mean size of the lesion was  $4.8 \pm 2.2$  cm<sup>2</sup>. The authors concluded that despite different techniques being utilized, the postoperative functional scores were similar in all groups. Nine severely abnormal cases were considered failures (12.9%; 9/70). Furthermore, 3 cases (4.3%) had complications, 2 of which required arthroscopic debridement for graft hypertrophy. Mehl et al<sup>23</sup> assessed 78 patients treated with various generations of ACI. Of these, 40 patients had a concomitant procedure for patellar instability or malalignment. The mean age was  $33.2 \pm 10.7$  years, and the mean follow-up was  $78 \pm 40.8$  months. The mean lesion size was  $4.3 \pm 1.6$  cm<sup>2</sup>. Although the data were not stratified by ACI generation, the authors found no postoperative differences in IKDC and Kujala scores between the solitary cartilage restoration group and the group that received a concomitant procedure. There were 6 (7.7%) failures: 1 revision ACI and 5 requiring total knee arthroplasty.

#### Osteochondral Autograft Transplantation

OAT for the patella was reported in 9 studies.<sup>2,3,8,10,12,14,26,37,41</sup> Of these, 6 studies<sup>3,8,12,26,37,41</sup> provided their mean lesion size, which ranged from 0.88 to 9.7 cm<sup>2</sup>. Astur et al<sup>2</sup> presented 33 patients who underwent OAT for the patella with a median follow-up of 30.2 months. The size of lesions treated ranged from 1 to 2.5 cm<sup>2</sup>. Of the 33 knees, 28 had a single 1.5-cm plug while the remaining 5 knees required 2 plugs. The mean age was 37.6 years (range, 16-59 years). The group showed statistically significant improvements in functional outcome scores ( $P < .001$ ). Three patients had postoperative arthrofibrosis that was treated with manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) for a complication rate of 9%. In another study by Astur et al,<sup>3</sup> a different cohort of 20 patients aged <45 years were followed for 2 years after OAT of the patella. Their mean follow-up was 24 months, and their mean lesion size was 1.16 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 1-1.18 cm<sup>2</sup>). The authors cited normal gaits for all patients, a significant decrease in swelling ( $P < .05$ ), a statistically significant increase in muscle strength ( $P < .05$ ), and a mean reduction in VAS score (improvement) of 4.7 points. After 2 years, the only complication was thigh hypotrophy in 11 (55%) participants.

Two larger studies, conducted by Cohen et al<sup>10</sup> (17 patients) and Gaweda et al<sup>14</sup> (19 patients), appreciated an improvement in every outcome score with no complications in either group after a mean follow-up of 19.8 months (range, 12-33 months) and 24 months, respectively. The mean ages of the participants were  $38.06 \pm 13.38$  years (range, 16-59 years) and 25.5 years. The mean lesion size was not indicated for either study, but Cohen et al used a 1.5-cm plug for every patient and Gaweda et al utilized a mean 3 plugs (size not specified). Chadli et al<sup>8</sup> studied 8 cases of osteochondritis dissecans of the patella treated with mosaicplasty in adolescents with a mean age of 15 years (range, 12-17 years). After a mean follow-up of 28.6 months (range, 16-50 months), they appreciated an improvement in all outcome scores. The mean lesion size was  $9.7 \pm 3.7$  cm<sup>2</sup>. Figueroa et al<sup>12</sup> examined 10 patients

with a mean follow-up of 37.3 months (range, 24-70 months). The mean age was 20.2 years (range, 15-38), and the mean lesion size was 1.2 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 0.9-2). All the outcome scores improved postoperatively, and no complications were noted. Nho et al<sup>26</sup> evaluated 22 patients for a mean 28.7 months (range, 17.7-57.8 months). The mean age was  $30 \pm 12$  years (range, 15-57 years), and the mean lesion size was  $1.65 \pm 1.27$  cm<sup>2</sup>. While the mean IKDC outcome score improved with statistical significance postoperatively ( $P < .028$ ), the SF-36 outcome score improved as well yet failed to reach significance ( $P < .059$ ). Three patients needed hardware removal after a mean 9.7 months (range, 5-14 months).

Two studies with 6 patients each were performed by Visona et al<sup>37</sup> and Yonetani et al.<sup>41</sup> The mean follow-up was 26 months (range, 10-68 months) and 51 months (range, 24-101 months), respectively, and the mean age was 20.5 years (range, 14-39 years) and 38 years (range, 27-51 years). The mean lesion sizes were  $0.88 \pm 0.47$  cm<sup>2</sup> and 1.3 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 0.78-2.2 cm<sup>2</sup>). All postoperative outcome scores in the Visona et al<sup>38</sup> study improved, and no complications were noted. Yonetani et al<sup>42</sup> solely tracked the Lysholm score, which improved postoperatively with statistical significance ( $P < .06$ ), and reported a 33.3% complication rate (2 patients with arthrofibrosis addressed with MUA).

#### Particulate Juvenile Articulated Cartilage

Tompkins et al<sup>36</sup> studied PJAC (Denovo NT Natural Tissue Graft; Zimmer) for cartilage restoration of patellar defects. They reported on 13 patients (15 knees) with a mean age of  $26.4 \pm 9.1$  years and a mean follow-up of  $28.8 \pm 10.2$  months. The mean lesion size was  $2.4 \pm 1.2$  cm<sup>2</sup>. Five patients had concomitant procedures for patellar instability. Only postoperative outcome scores were provided. In a subgroup analysis of solitary PJAC as compared with a combined procedure, no statistically significant differences were found in the combined procedure group in terms of postoperative mean Tegner scores, but a significantly higher VAS score was found for the concomitant procedure cohort ( $2.5 \pm 1.4$  vs  $0.8 \pm 0.6$ ;  $P < .01$ ). Seven complications (46.7%) were noted, including 3 of the 15 knees requiring arthroscopic debridement for graft hypertrophy (20%) and 2 of the 15 knees requiring a MUA for arthrofibrosis (13.3%).

#### Osteochondral Allograft Transplantation

Gracitelli et al<sup>17</sup> performed OCA on 28 knees in 27 patients with a mean age of 33.7 years (range, 14-64 years) and a mean follow-up of 9.7 years (range, 1.8-30.1 years). While the mean lesion size was not provided, the mean implant diameter was 10.1 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 4-18 cm<sup>2</sup>). Ten patients had a concomitant procedure performed during the index surgery. Overall, patients showed improvement in postoperative outcome scores when compared with preoperative scores. Although 19 knees (70%) required further surgery and 8 knees (28.6%) failed, 89% of the patients were ultimately satisfied. Additionally, the overall survival of the allograft used in this technique was 78.1% at 5- and 10-year follow-up and 55.8% at 15-year follow-up ( $P < .05$ ).



### Synthetic Graft

Two studies<sup>20,30</sup> used a synthetic graft, and the mean lesion sizes ranged from 2.1 to 2.64 cm<sup>2</sup>. Joshi et al<sup>20</sup> studied a synthetic resorbable chondral or osteochondral scaffold plug (TruFit CB; Smith & Nephew). The plug is a synthetic resorbable biphasic implant made of a hydrophilic polymer composed of polylactide coglycolide, polyglycolide fibers, and calcium sulfate. Ten patients with a mean age of 33.6 years (range, 17-49 years) and a mean lesion size of 2.64 cm<sup>2</sup> (range, 1-5 cm<sup>2</sup>) were reviewed for treatment of patellar defects. The mean follow-up was 24 months. Outcome scores demonstrated variable results with a minimal improvement in the KOOS and a deterioration in SF-36 scores. At the last follow-up, the group saw a reoperation rate of 70% (7 patients). Perdisa et al<sup>30</sup> reported on 34 patients with a mean age of 30 ± 10 years who underwent a procedure with a synthetic graft. The scaffold implant was a biphasic cell-free collagen-hydroxyapatite scaffold (Maioregen; Fin-Ceramica Faenza SpA). The mean lesion size was 2.1 ± 1 cm<sup>2</sup>, and the mean follow-up was 24 months. Sixteen patients (47%) had concomitant procedures. The authors found improvement in every outcome score collected. No differences were found between patients with a solitary procedure and patients with a concomitant procedure at the final follow-up. The group did not have any surgical failures at the last follow-up (ie, no reoperation). Two patients (5.9%) did not achieve clinical improvement, and both cases were considered clinical failures.

## DISCUSSION

A total of 24 studies reporting on 7 surgical techniques were reviewed. No uniform outcome score was utilized, but the IKDC score was most commonly assessed (13 studies). Furthermore, variability in lesion size, concomitant osteotomies, and reported data made it difficult to compare the surgical techniques. OAT (n = 9) and ACI (n = 8) were the most frequently studied procedures for isolated patellar chondral defects, while fewer studies were performed on OCA (n = 1), PJAC (n = 1), and synthetic grafts (n = 2).

While many systematic reviews and meta-analyses have been conducted on various aspects of cartilage treatment pertaining to the knee, only 2 studies<sup>25,28</sup> focused solely on the patella. The reviews by Noyes and Barber-Westin<sup>28</sup> and Mouzopoulos et al<sup>25</sup> reported on various techniques, including nonrestorative procedures such as arthroplasty, periosteal transplantation, and isolated tibial tubercle osteotomies. Furthermore, traditional techniques such as OCA and newer techniques such as PJAC and synthetic grafts were not discussed. Zamborsky and Danisovic<sup>42</sup> performed a systematic review of 21 randomized controlled trials (evidence level 1) to present surgical treatment options for knee cartilage defects, and they found that patient outcome scores and rates of return to activity were superior for those who underwent cartilage restoration techniques (ie, ACI and OAT) than for those who underwent MF. Shanmugaraj et al<sup>33</sup> conducted a systematic review of 28 studies (evidence levels 2-4) on cartilage

restoration techniques for the patellofemoral joint. The authors could not conclude on 1 superior treatment since all cartilage treatment techniques noted clinical improvement from baseline. The review reemphasized a long-term trend toward improved functional outcome scores with ACI as compared with MF in the treatment of patellofemoral joint defects. There was no differentiation of the patella versus the trochlea. The authors concluded that ACI, particularly the third generation, was the most common restoration technique used in the past decade.<sup>33</sup>

As mentioned previously, the anatomic and biomechanical differences of the patella, as compared with the trochlea and condyles, make treatment challenging. Studies with stratified results for patellar cartilage restoration are limited, and management may oftentimes be based on results from condylar cartilage restoration outcomes. It is important to note that ACI for full-thickness cartilage defects of the patella has a lower satisfaction rate (~66%) when compared with ACI for the femoral condyles (75%-85%).<sup>4,11,23</sup> Similarly, Brittberg et al<sup>5</sup> evaluated 213 patients with ACI and found good to excellent results in 90% of patients with femoral condyle lesions, as opposed to 69% of patients with patellar lesions.

During this review, it became evident that the definition of *failure* provided by the study investigators varied widely. Some authors considered a failure a conversion to arthroplasty, whereas others considered any reoperation as a failure. Clinical failures were also reported when postoperative outcome scores did not improve over preoperative or baseline scores. We used each study's criteria for failure when provided. Therapies requiring ingrowth or maturation from a cell or collagen-based matrix (ACI, PJAC, aMF) dealt with complications related to graft hypertrophy or overgrowth and were susceptible to arthroscopic debridement. While OAT had no failures, the OCA failure rate was 28.6% based on 1 study (Gracitelli et al<sup>17</sup>), which included conversion to arthroplasty, revision OCA, and patellectomy. ACI failure rates ranged from 4% to 12.9% with the result most commonly being a conversion to arthroplasty. Complication rates and reoperation rates were notably higher for first-generation ACI vs third generation (MACI). Last, for synthetic grafts, Joshi et al<sup>20</sup> did not report a failure rate but noted a 70% reoperation rate, while Perdisa et al<sup>30</sup> cited a 5.9% clinical failure rate.

Noyes and Barber-Westin<sup>28</sup> commented on patellar lesions >4 cm<sup>2</sup>, and their preferred method of treatment was ACI/MACI in their systematic review of patellofemoral cartilage lesions in patients <50 years old. In our review, OCA, MACI, and OAT were all used to treat lesions >4 cm<sup>2</sup>. The concern with OAT or a mosaicplasty would be donor-site morbidity in larger lesions. Thus, between OCA and MACI, while both are viable techniques with promising results, more comparative and higher-level studies are needed to discern the superior technique.

In contrast, while OCA and MACI demonstrated promising results for smaller lesions as well, they are both cost-intensive procedures that require more long-term planning with multiple procedures. Alternatively, OAT provides improved postoperative outcomes and the benefit of being a cost-effective technique for smaller cartilage defects.

In lesions of ~2 cm, aMF resulted in consistent improvements in the measured outcome scores, while 2 other techniques demonstrated less favorable results and higher complication rates. PJAC, despite being a single-stage off-the-shelf procedure that lacks donor-site morbidity, had a high complication rate, which may outweigh the benefits of the procedure. The second technique, synthetic osteochondral graft, was utilized in 2 studies and the results were conflicting. Further research is warranted before the routine use of synthetic grafts for treatment of patellar cartilage lesions. Nevertheless, with timing being of considerable importance, the off-the-shelf availability of PJAC and synthetic graft justifies additional exploration of their clinical use.

OCA had the longest follow-up (9.7 years) for patellar cartilage treatment. Long-term follow-up remains critical in effectively evaluating the treatment options. In the Gracitelli et al<sup>17</sup> study, the overall survival of OCA was 78.1% at 5- and 10-year follow-up and 55.8% at 15-year follow-up. A systematic review of OCA in the patellofemoral joint by Chahla et al<sup>9</sup> reported the long-term survival rates of OCA at 5 and 10 years as 87.9% and 77.2%, respectively. However, Assenmacher et al<sup>1</sup> performed a systematic review of generalized knee OAT and found a 72% success rate at 10-year follow-up. Overall, 70% at 10 years appears a reasonable benchmark for cartilage treatment of patellar defects.

This systematic review includes newer cartilage restoration techniques and focuses on solitary patellar chondral defects. Cartilage restoration can be influenced by multiple factors, such as location of the defect, cost, compliance, comorbidities, number of defects, concomitant procedures, and whether the defect is contained or uncontained. No single study within this systematic review provided all this information. Within the studies considered, many factors influenced the success and viability of the techniques that were used. Given the considerable inconsistency and variability in the reported data, no conclusive statement can be made on the ideal surgical restoration technique for the patella.

### Limitations

This systematic review has its own set of strengths and weaknesses, in addition to those of the studies, and is level 4 evidence given the composition of the studies and the criteria provided by the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. These studies did not use a common outcome score, which made it difficult to directly compare all techniques; in fact, 5 outcome scores were used, with the IKDC being the most common (13 of 24 studies). Only 4 studies<sup>15,16,23,27</sup> gave general information regarding the patients' return to activities/sports, and no study gave information regarding cost-efficiency. These limitations prevented the ability to synthesize and analyze the data in a true meta-analysis. As a result, this systematic review serves to provide an organized and comprehensive approach to the most modern surgical techniques for restoration of patellar chondral lesions. Additionally, complication rates and follow-up lengths were provided for most, if not all, techniques.

Another factor not considered or presented in these studies is the status of the underlying bone, which may direct management. Osteochondral allografts or autografts that address the chondral and underlying osseous abnormalities may prove beneficial in lesions with subchondral cysts or bone marrow edema. Alternatively, cell- or chondral-based therapies may require appropriate bone grafting (single or 2 stage) for success.<sup>24,29</sup>

Last, cartilage restoration in any part of the knee requires a thorough understanding of bony alignment and subsequent correction of any malalignment. Most of the studies in this review did not stratify their results based on the presence of a concomitant TTO. The presence of an osteotomy can affect complication rates, but the absence of an osteotomy can affect outcome scores.

### CONCLUSION

From the studies reviewed, 1 technique (OAT) was predominantly used for smaller chondral lesions (<2 cm<sup>2</sup>) and demonstrated minimal complication rates and satisfactory outcome scores. aMF techniques show promise with improvement in outcome scores and zero complications, but indications (ie, size) and variability in techniques need to be elucidated in higher-level studies. MACI consistently exhibited higher mean improvement in the measured outcome scores and resulted in fewer complications when compared with previous generations of ACI. Further prospective studies comparing OCA and MACI for larger patellar defects are necessary to determine the superior technique.

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## APPENDIX

TABLE A1  
Patient-Reported Outcome Scores and Complications<sup>a</sup>

Lead Author (Year)	Procedure (No. of Knees at Follow-up)	Outcome	Score, Mean ± SD (Range)		Complications (No. (%))	Concomitant Procedures
			Preoperative	Postoperative		
Astur (2014) <sup>2</sup>	OAT (33)	Lysholm	57.27 ± 19.97	80.76 ± 12.26	Arthrofibrosis (3 [9])	—
		Fulkerson	54.24 ± 18.89	80.42 ± 10.20		
		Kujala	54.76 ± 17.61	75.18 ± 12.47		
		SF-36 (physical)	45.91 ± 13.31	63.64 ± 29.11		
Astur (2017) <sup>3</sup>	OAT (20)	Kujala	55.9	76.9	Thigh hypotrophy (11 [55])	—
		Tegner	0-5	5-9 (7)		
Becher (2015) <sup>4</sup>	aMF (5)	KOOS	—	73 ± 19 (40-90)	None	1 MPFL, 1 MPFL + TTO
Chadli (2017) <sup>8</sup>	Mosaicplasty (8)	IKDC	49.9 (34.5-57.5)	86.1 (70-100)	None	—
		Lysholm	53.8 (42-80)	88.5 (69-100)		
		Tegner	4.5 (3-7)	6.2 (4-7)		
Cohen (2012) <sup>10</sup>	OAT (17)	Lysholm	54.59 ± 25.99 (9-98)	75.76 ± 18.89 (36-100)	None	1 MPFL, 6 lateral release
		Fulkerson	52.53 ± 25.80 (2-93)	78.41 ± 18.76 (21-100)		
		Kujala	49.82 ± 22.04 (12-81)	73.47 ± 17.66 (43-100)		
		SF-36 (physical)	45.88 ± 15.02	63.53 ± 30.09		
Dhollander (2011) <sup>11</sup>	aMF (5)	KOOS	65 (38-76)	93 (62-97)	Hypertrophy (2 [40]), incomplete filling of defect (3 [60])	2 AMZ, 1 AMZ + MPFL
		Tegner	2 (1-3)	3 (2-3)		
		Kujala	38 (30-55)	71 (53-82)		
Figueroa (2011) <sup>12</sup>	OAT (10)	IKDC	—	93.6 ± 1.74 (92-96)	None	MPFL, MF
		Lysholm	73.8 ± 8.36 (66-86)	95 ± 4.47 (90-100)		
Gaweda (2006) <sup>14</sup>	OAT (19)	Marshall	36.3 ± 2.1	46.2 ± 1.8	—	AMZ + lateral release
Gigante (2009) <sup>15</sup>	MACI (14)	Lysholm	55 (47-74)	92.5 (85-99)	Pain (screw removal) (2 [14.2])	AMZ
		Kujala	52 (43-69)	88.5 (85-95)		
		Mod Cincinnati	2 (2-4)	8 (6-10)		
		Tegner	1 (1-1)	4 (4-5)		
Gilligly (2014) <sup>16</sup>	ACI (25)	IKDC	42.5	75.7	Graft hypertrophy (8 [33]), failed (PFA) (1 [4])	AMZ + lateral release
		Mod Cincinnati	3	7		
		Lysholm	40.2	79.3		
		SF-12	41.2	47.6		
Gracitelli (2015) <sup>17</sup>	OCA (28)	MA-P (18-point)	12	15.2	Debridement (9 [32.1]), hardware removal (6 [21.4]), ACLR (1 [3.5]), PF realignment (1 [3.5]), MUA (1 [3.5]), loose body removal (1 [3.5]), failed (8 [28.5]); 4 TKR, 2 PFR, 1 revision, 1 patellectomy	7 lateral release, 3 realignment (vastus medialis imbrication, AMZ, MPFL)
		IKDC	36.5	66.5		
		KS-F	64.4	80.5		
Henderson (2006) <sup>18</sup>	ACI (44)	IKDC	42.3 ± 17.2	68.1 ± 23	23 (52.2). Group A (ACI + TTO): 10 patients; 9 lesions with periosteal patch hypertrophy or extrusion, 2 with removal of an internal fixation device. Group B (ACI): 13 patients; 15 lesions with periosteal patch hypertrophy or extrusion, 1 new chondral defect. No group specified: 1 meniscectomy, 1 fat pad adhesion	22 ACLR, AMZ with lateral release
		SF-36 (physical)	48.3 ± 16.2	61.4 ± 16.9		

(continued)

Table A1 (continued)

Lead Author (Year)	Procedure (No. of Knees at Follow-up)	Outcome	Score, Mean $\pm$ SD (Range)		Complications (No. [%])	Concomitant Procedures
			Preoperative	Postoperative		
Joshi (2012) <sup>20</sup>	Synthetic graft (10)	KOOS SF-36	64.7 (38-81) 64.1 (60-71)	69.9 (5-90) 61.3 (52.4-80)	Pain, inflammation (7 [70]; 2 arthroplasty, 5 removal)	—
Macmull (2012) <sup>22</sup>	ACI-C (25) MACI (23)	Mod Cincinnati (6-100)  Stanmore (0-4)	■ ACI-C: 42.12 (18-60) ■ MACI: 48.39 (22-75) ■ All: 45.13 (18-75) ■ ACI-C: 3.04 (1-4) ■ MACI: 2.78 (1-4) ■ All: 2.92 (0-4)	■ ACI-C: 48.76 (11-83) ■ MACI: 61.39 (8-100) ■ All: 54.81 (11-100) ■ ACI-C: 2.44 (0-4) ■ MACI: 2.09 (0-4) ■ All: 2.27 (0-4)	—	—
Mehl (2019) <sup>23</sup>	ACI (78)	IKDC Kujala	—	64.7 $\pm$ 20.2 67.7 $\pm$ 20.2	Revision ACI (1 [1.2]), TKA (5 [6.4])	40 AMZ, lateral release
Nho (2008) <sup>26</sup>	OAT (22)	IKDC ADL SF-36	47.2 $\pm$ 14 60.1 $\pm$ 16.9 64 $\pm$ 14.8	74.4 $\pm$ 12.3 84.7 $\pm$ 8.3 79.4 $\pm$ 15.4	Hardware removal (3 [13.6]; of 9 concomitant TTO), chondromalacia (debridement; 1 [4.5])	9 AMZ, 13 lateral release, 3 proximal realignment
Niemeyer (2008) <sup>27</sup>	ACI (70)	Lysholm IKDC Cincinnati	— — 34.4 $\pm$ 33.9	73 $\pm$ 22.4 62 $\pm$ 21.5 61.5 $\pm$ 21.5	Transplant hypertrophy (2 [2]), wound healing (1 [1.4]), severely abnormal cases (9 [12.9])	—
Perdisa (2017) <sup>30</sup>	Synthetic graft (34)	IKDC Tegner	39.5 $\pm$ 14.5 1.8 $\pm$ 1	67.6 $\pm$ 17.4 3.3 $\pm$ 1.1	Realignment (2 [5.9])	9 realignment (tibial tubercle anteromedialization), 3 removal of posttraumatic calcification, 1 lateral release, 1 MPFL reconstruction, 1 MAT, 1 patellar tendon repair
Sadlik (2017) <sup>32</sup>	aMF (12)	KOOS IKDC	50.3 (17.3-83.9) 37.4 (4.6-90.8)	90.1 (77.4-100) 79.4 (42.5-100)	—	2 AMZ, 1 MPFL, 1 HTO
Teo (2013) <sup>35</sup>	ACI (23)	IKDC Lysholm Tegner	45 (5.8-63) 50 (11-79) 2.5 (0-5)	75 (40.2-96.6) 70 (48-100) 4 (2-7)	Periosteal hypertrophy (asymptomatic; 2 [8])	—
Tompkins (2013) <sup>36</sup>	PJAC (15)	IKDC KOOS Kujala Tegner	—	73.3 $\pm$ 17.6 88.9 $\pm$ 12.9 79 (55-99) 5 (3-9)	Mild graft hypertrophy (1 needed debridement; 3 [20]), gross graft hypertrophy (debridement; 2 [13.3]), arthrofibrosis (MUA; 2 [13.3])	2 MPFL, 3 MPFL + AMZ
Visona (2010) <sup>37</sup>	OAT/mosaicplasty (6)	IKDC Lysholm Tegner	—	66.3 (36.8-88.5) 85 (69-100) 5.7 (4-9)	None	1 MPFL + AMZ

(continued)

Table A1 (continued)

Lead Author (Year)	Procedure (No. of Knees at Follow-up)	Outcome	Score, Mean $\pm$ SD (Range)		Complications (No. [%])	Concomitant Procedures
			Preoperative	Postoperative		
von Keudell (2017) <sup>38</sup>	ACI (30)	Mod	3.1 $\pm$ 1	5.7 $\pm$ 1.5	Failed graft (3 [10]; 2 PF arthroplasty, 1 bicompartamental arthroplasty), graft hypertrophy (7 [23]), chondroplasty (5 [16]), arthrofibrosis (4 [13]), hardware removal (2 [6])	19 AMZ, 28 lateral release, 5 tracheoplasty
		Cincinnati				
		KSS	55.7 $\pm$ 12.8	73 $\pm$ 14.7		
		WOMAC	52.2 $\pm$ 16.9	27.9 $\pm$ 23.6		
		SF-36	40 $\pm$ 8.2	47 $\pm$ 10		
Yonetani (2019) <sup>41</sup>	OAT (6)	Lysholm	67 $\pm$ 8.8 (54-80)	90 $\pm$ 13 (79-100)	Arthrofibrosis (MUA; 2 [33.3])	—

<sup>a</sup>Dashes indicate data not available. ACI, autologous chondrocyte implantation; ACI-C, autologous chondrocyte implantation–collagen; ACLR, anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction; ADL, Activities of Daily Living; aMF, advanced microfracture; AMZ, anteromedialization; HTO, high tibial osteotomy; IKDC, International Knee Documentation Committee; KOOS, Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; KS-F, Knee Society–function; KSS, Knee Society Score; MACI, matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation; MA-P, Merle d'Aubigné and Postel score; MAT, meniscal allograft transplant; MF, microfracture; Mod, modified; MPFL, medial patellofemoral ligament; MUA, manipulation under anesthesia; OAT, osteochondral autograft transplantation; OCA, osteochondral allograft transplantation; PF, patellofemoral; PFA, patellofemoral arthroplasty; PFR, patellofemoral replacement; PJAC, particulate juvenile articular cartilage; SF-36, 36-Item Short Form Health Survey; TKA, total knee arthroplasty; TKR, total knee replacement; TTO, tibial tubercle osteotomy; WOMAC, Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Arthritis Index.