Variable	ICRS grade 2	ICRS grade 3	<i>P</i> value
	(n=12)	(n=47)	
Age <sup>a</sup> (year)	54.8 ± 4.0	54.1 ± 5.5	0.770
Gender <sup>b</sup>			0.482
Male	2 (16.7%)	14 (29.8%)	
Female	10 (83.3%)	33 (70.2%)	
BMI <sup>a</sup> (kg/m2)	$23.5\pm7.6$	$26.9\pm5.2$	0.055
Load-bearing axis deviation <sup>a</sup> (%)	$18.0\pm9.0$	$19.3 \pm 12.4$	0.713
Preoperative Hip-Knee-Ankle angle <sup>a</sup> (varus,°)	$7.7\pm2.6$	$7.9\pm3.0$	0.955
Medial proximal tibial angle <sup>a</sup> (°)	$83.6\pm2.4$	$84.1 \pm 2.2$	0.799
Joint line convergence angle <sup>a</sup> (°)	$2.4 \pm 1.2$	$3.4 \pm 1.8$	0.078
Posterior tibial slope (°)	$6.5\pm4.0$	$5.5\pm3.0$	0.457
Preoperative Blackburne-Peel ratio <sup>a</sup>	$0.9\pm0.2$	$0.9\pm0.2$	0.118
Preoperative Caton-Deschamps ratio <sup>a</sup>	$1.1\pm0.2$	$1.0\pm0.2$	0.292
Preoperative Lateral patellofemoral angle <sup>a</sup> (°)	$12.1\pm3.9$	$14.4 \pm 4.6$	0.072
Trochlear dysplasia grade			0.499
according to the Dejour classification <sup>b</sup>			
No	12 (100.0%)	44 (93.6%)	
Type A	0 (0.0%)	3 (6.4%)	
Preoperative Kellgren–Lawrence grade <sup>b</sup>			0.136
Grade 2	5 (41.7%)	7 (14.9%)	
Grade 3	6 (50.0%)	31 (66.0%)	
Grade 4	1 (8.3%)	9 (19.1%)	
Preoperative patellofemoral osteoarthritis			0.426
stage according to Iwano's classification <sup>b</sup>			
Stage 0	3 (25.0%)	7 (14.9%)	
Stage 1	6 (50.0%)	21 (44.7%)	
Stage 2	3 (25.0%)	19 (40.4%)	
Correction angle <sup>a</sup> (°)	$11.1 \pm 2.3$	$11.0\pm2.1$	0.895
Time to hardware removal (months) <sup>a</sup>	$20.3\pm6.6$	$22.1\pm 6.2$	0.406
Composition of cartilage lesion on			0.185

Additional file 1 Subgroup analysis of preoperative variables within group 1

7 (58.3%)	16 (34.0%)	
5 (41.7%)	31 (66.0%)	
$72.3 \pm 15.3$	$67.3 \pm 18.3$	0.463
$32.7 \pm 12.6$	$34.1 \pm 11.7$	0.985
$40.4 \pm 14.0$	$37.8 \pm 15.0$	0.477
	5 (41.7%) 72.3 ± 15.3 32.7 ± 12.6	$5 (41.7\%)$ $31 (66.0\%)$ $72.3 \pm 15.3$ $67.3 \pm 18.3$ $32.7 \pm 12.6$ $34.1 \pm 11.7$

*BMI* body mass index, *VAS* Visual analogue scale, *IKDC* International Knee Documentation Committee

<sup>a</sup> The values are given as the mean and standard deviation, and compared between the groups by use of the Mann-Whitney U test

<sup>b</sup> The values are given as the number of patients with the percentage in parenthesis, and compared between the groups by use of the Pearson's Chi-squared or Fisher's exact