

Appendix table 2. The Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score₄ by follow-up.

Follow-up	Variable	Non-surgical treatment (n=982)	ACL Reconstruction (n=8838)	p-value	Difference between groups Mean (95% CI)
Baseline					
	KOOS ₄	51.1 (17.3) 51 (8.2; 98.2) (49.5; 52.6) n=488	54.0 (17.7) 53.8 (2.5; 100) (53.6; 54.4) n=5977	0.0003	-2.93 (-4.57; -1.28)
1 year follow-up					
	KOOS ₄	64.6 (17.8) 66.2 (14; 100) (63.3; 65.9) n=740	71.7 (18.9) 74.6 (0.7; 100) (71.1; 72.3) n=4019	0.0001	-7.06 (-8.52; -5.62)
2 year follow-up					
	KOOS ₄	68.6 (19.1) 70.8 (6.3; 100) (67.1; 70.2) n=613	73.7 (19.1) 77.2 (5.9; 100) (73.1; 74.3) n=3397	0.0001	-5.06 (-6.67; -3.45)
5 year follow-up					
	KOOS ₄	72.5 (19.5) 76.7 (17; 100) (70.4; 74.6) n=329	76.6 (19.2) 81.7 (0.7; 100) (75.8; 77.4) n=2203	0.0004	-4.17 (-6.39; -1.94)
10 year follow-up					
	KOOS ₄	68.8 (18.3) 71.5 (25.9; 100) (65.1; 72.5) n=96	76.9 (20.0) 82.9 (0.7; 100) (75.3; 78.5) n=585	0.0006	-8.11 (-12.32; -3.81)

ACL, anterior cruciate ligament; CI, confidence interval; KOOS₄, aggregated version of the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score.

For continuous variables Mean (SD) / Median (Min; Max) / (95% CI for Mean) / n= is presented.

For comparison between groups the Fisher's Non Parametric Permutation Test was used for continuous variables. The confidence interval for the mean difference between groups is based on Fisher's non-parametric permutation test.