INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is an important static stabilizer of the knee joint. The ACL has a specific structure that enables it to perform its function *(207).*

Injuries of the knee are extremely common and their incidence has apparently been rising during the past few decades. The most common disrupted ligament is the ACL *(191).*

The fact that ACL has a poor capacity for healing, and that non surgical treatment of a torn ACL gave fair results as regards pain, swelling, giving way, deterioration of knee function, meniscal deterioration, and osteoarthritis, all this directed orthopedic surgeons towards surgical reconstruction of ACL *(83).*

Treatment of ACL injuries whether conservative or operative is based on variables which are unique for every patient including the acuteness of injury, presence or absence of other lesions in the knee, type of ACL injury, degree of instability, and the ability of the patient to comply with treatment program *(66).*

Although treatment of ACL injuries is markedly controversial, it is generally a greed that surgery is the treatment of choice for young active individuals who are willing to regain their pre-injury level of activity and sports participation *(118).*

The surgical approach to injury of ACL has developed over the years from extra-articular repairs to intra-articular procedures to a combination of both procedures. Currently, most orthopedic surgeons use intra-articular graft reconstructions in an attempt to imitate the original ACL *(136).*

Intra-articular ACL reconstruction can be done using biological tissues as patellar tendon, hamstring tendon, quadriceps tendon, or others either as autograft, allograft or oxenografts. Also synthetic ligaments can be used but still the patellar tendon is the gold standard for ACL reconstruction *(64).*

In the nineties of this century, the assisted arthroscopic technique for ACL reconstruction was developed to improve the surgical outcome and minimize morbidity. Soon after that, the completely arthroscopic technique was developed *(66).*

The aim of the present study is to evaluate the results following arthroscopic and assisted arthroscopic reconstruction of ACL injuries using hamstring tendon or patellar tendon as a graft.