

"INTRODUCTION"

The progress in arthroscopy during the past several years has dramatically changed the orthopaedic surgeon's approach to the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of joint dysfunctions. A high degree of clinical accuracy, combined with low morbidity has encouraged the use of arthroscopy to assist in diagnosis, to determine prognosis and often to provide treatment. There are no absolute indications for arthroscopy of the shoulder; it has found useful only in certain conditions.

The only contra-indication is a local skin condition or infections that might seed the joint (Miller III 1993).

The future uses of arthroscope in the shoulder are limited only by the imagination of the surgeon and the availability of interested instrument makers. Reconstruction of acromioclavicular joint instability, treatment of synovial and arthritic lesions, and replacement or replantation of allograft or living homografts for articular cartilage may someday be possible.

Role of Laser is just beginning to be explored. as experience grows, techniques and indications should continue to be developed and refined, and this will ultimately be of benefit to the patient (Karzel, 1993).
