CURRENT CONCEPTS OF ARTICULAR CARTILAGE REPAIR

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Introduction
Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of joint disease, affecting mainly the load bearing joints. It can lead to severe disability and loss of quality of life. A huge number of surgical strategies aimed at cartilage repair is currently available including micro-fracture, osteochondral autograft transplantation, mosaicoplasty and osteochondral allografts, autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI). Good clinical outcomes of such procedures are strongly influenced by the size of the chondral lesion, proper mechanical loading and stability of the affected joint and the presence of coexisting joint pathologies. Because of that the choice of optimal surgical treatment of chondral defects remains highly controversial and has yet to be determined. We present a systemic approach of managing OA based on our own experiences and the review of current literature.

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