MU News Bureau

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Knee injury might not need through-the-bone repair

New evidence supports a less-invasive repair technique for quadriceps tendon ruptures, report researchers.

The disabling knee injuries typically occur in adults over 40. Obesity, illness, or traumatic injuries can cause them. Most tendon ruptures require surgery, and the current gold-standard technique for repairing these ruptures is transosseous (literally, through-the-bone) tunnel repair, a lengthy, technically demanding procedure.

In the new study, researchers have found that suture anchors, a less-invasive repair technique, responded better to strength-testing after the surgery, supporting more movement in the knee earlier in the recovery process.

“The suture anchor technique requires a smaller incision and disrupts less of the patient’s normal anatomy around the knee,” says Seth L. Sherman, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. “By using a minimally invasive approach, we create a better healing environment for the knee, which supports more movement in the knee earlier after surgery.”

Sherman conducted tendon-repair surgeries using both techniques on tendon specimens from human cadavers. After the surgeries, Sherman, along with Ferris Pfeiffer, assistant professor in the University of Missouri College of Engineering and School of Medicine, simulated rehabilitation to test the strength of the repaired tendons.

Sherman and Pfeiffer found that the tendons repaired with the less-invasive suture anchor technique had significantly less gapping after the stress tests. Gapping is a sign of a weak tendon repair in which a gap between the tendon and the bone occurs, decreasing the tendon’s ability to heal.

The researchers also found no difference in the amount of pressure the tendon could withstand during either technique. Sherman says this means not only were the suture anchors more resistant to gapping, but they also had the same ultimate strength as transosseous tunnel repairs.
While the suture anchor technique has advantages, such as shorter operating time and less damage to soft tissue, one disadvantage is the cost effectiveness of the procedure, Sherman says. Sherman cites a 2012 study published in Orthopedics that found the cost of using suture anchors ranged from $435 to $560 per patient, approximately $190 to $320 more than the transosseous technique. However, earlier rehabilitation in the suture anchor group may offset this initial difference.

Sherman has started using the suture anchor technique in living human patients and plans to compare the healing time of the two techniques in future research.

“Although a clinical study is needed to confirm this technique as a viable alternative to the current gold-standard technique, these results support suture anchors as a viable, less-invasive alternative to repairs of the quadriceps tendon,” Sherman says.

The study appears in Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic and Related Surgery. Funding for the study came from Arthrex, an orthopedic medical device company. Sherman reported his funding source as a potential conflict of interest.

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**MU’s Melissa Click deserved a hearing, says a National professors’ group**

University of Missouri’s curators violated Melissa Click’s right to due process when it dismissed the assistant professor shown calling for muscle to stop a student journalist during campus protests last fall, says a report from the American Association of University Professors.

A second video showed Click in an earlier confrontation with a Columbia Missouri police officer.

Each action occurred when Click, who at the time was a member of the MU communications faculty, tried to intervene on behalf of students during race-related protests on the Columbia campus last year.

The protests led to the resignations of the university system president and the chancellor on the Columbia campus.

Click’s behavior set off a barrage of comments, including some from Missouri legislators who called for her to be fired, and threatened to cut state funding to
the university. Others on the campus said while they may not have agreed with Click’s actions, they supported her right under university policy to a hearing before her peers. Click was not given a hearing.

Click was fired on February 25. An AAUP investigation committee visited the Columbia campus March 22 and 23 to meet with faculty and administrators.

The report, released Thursday, said MU “violated basic standards of academic due process.” And, “In light of the board’s action against Professor Click and in the context of legislative threats to the institution and unresolved administrative turmoil, academic freedom and shared governance at MU are endangered.”

In a statement, the Board of Curators said it continues to stand behind its actions, “which were in the best interests of the university, regarding Dr. Melissa Click’s misconduct.” It also said it “respectfully disagrees with the AAUP’s conclusion that academic freedom is threatened.”

Next month AAUP members vote on whether to add MU to a list of censured institutions. Being on the list “serves as a sign to all professors that their rights may not be represented at that institution,” said Laura Markwardt, spokeswoman for the AAUP.

Professors group faults firing of Mizzou prof Melissa Click

COLUMBIA, Mo. • An investigation by a national professors group has found the University of Missouri Board of Curators likely bowed to political pressure when it fired assistant professor Melissa Click for her role last year in a student protest.

The American Association of University Professors said a three-member investigating committee of professors from other institutions reviewed the decision to fire Click. The investigators, whose findings were released just after 11 p.m. Wednesday, determined
normal processes for disciplining faculty weren’t used, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

Click’s firing in February followed run-ins with police during October protests in Columbia and with two student journalists weeks later on the Columbia campus, including a videotaped confrontation in which she called for “some muscle” to remove a student videographer from the protest area. Click has apologized for her actions, while also insisting her ouster was unfair.

The association’s report said: “Many observers see the board’s action as motivated less by concern with Professor Click’s alleged misconduct and more by an effort to appease legislators threatening to punish the institution financially if she were not dismissed.”

The university, which was given a chance to comment before the report was published, defended the firing.

Curators Chair Pam Henrickson, one of two votes against firing Click, issued a statement Wednesday that also called the board’s actions justified. Henrickson said the report “disregards the seriousness of her misconduct and reaches inconsistent and unsupported conclusions.”

The report will be considered in June by the association’s Committee A on Academic Freedom, which will recommend whether the University of Missouri should be on put on its censure list.

MU softball players say protest is over, focus is on postseason
Missouri softball players heeded Coach Ehren Earleywine’s call for a cease-fire.

The three MU players who spoke with reporters before Wednesday’s practice — senior outfielders Emily Crane and Taylor Gadbois and junior pitcher Tori Finucane — said the players have ended their protests of Athletic Director Mack Rhoades and the athletic administration.

“I think Coach E wants that, so we’re going to listen to what Coach E says,” Gadbois said of the players’ decision to end the protest. “He is our coach, and we’ve been fighting for him this whole time, but at the same time, we always do what he says.”

Added Finucane: “I think it was a coach decision, a team decision. I think, especially with Coach E’s statement, it was more of just laying it to rest and letting it play out.”

The news came as a surprise to Earleywine.

“They have?” Earleywine said, when informed by a reporter that players said the protest had ended. “First I’ve heard of it. … I’m very glad to hear that.”

The players said their focus is squarely on the postseason, which begins Thursday in the first round of the four-team, double-elimination regional Missouri will host at University Field.

Nebraska (33-19) and Louisville (35-15) will square off at 4:30 p.m. before Missouri (39-14) plays BYU (35-19) at 7 p.m.

“We’re so worried about playing right now,” Crane said. “Anything that we can do to keep us together and keep us and Coach on the same side, that’s what our plan is. We’re not going to deal with anything protest-wise. We’re just going to play softball, and that’s what we’re here to do.”

Earleywine sent a text message to the Tribune and other media outlets on Friday thanking his players for their support but calling for an end to the protests.

Earleywine and his program have been under internal review by the university for more than six weeks.

That investigation came to light when the team’s unity council launched a protest May 7. A Missouri player issued a statement in the University Field press box about 45 minutes before a game against South Carolina that blasted Rhoades and the investigation and waged support for Earleywine. On May 12, the unity council doubled down on its protests and called for an end to Rhoades’ “long road of lies and hidden agendas.”
The athletic department, in a May 7 statement released about two hours after the player protest was announced, acknowledged that it’s in the midst of an internal review after receiving complaints from “both inside and outside the program.”

Earleywine clarified Wednesday that the softball team’s unity council — a team-elected group selected to be the voice of the team — consists of five members. Previously, Earleywine had mistakenly said the unity council featured four members. The five members are senior Sami Fagan, junior Natalie Fleming, sophomore Paige Bange and freshmen Jolie Duffner and Rylee Pierce. Earleywine had forgotten to list Pierce when he listed the unity council members May 8.

Crane, Gadbois and Finucane declined to say whether all members of the team were aware of the unity council’s plans for a second protest before it was announced last Thursday.

Earleywine said he’s had little to no conversation with Rhoades during the past couple of weeks. He has considered the possibility that this might be his final season in the Missouri dugout.

“You just don’t know,” Earleywine said. “With the investigation ongoing, you don’t know. But I’ve tried to keep it out of my head as much as possible and coach my team.”

Does he think he’ll be back for an 11th season?

“I guess it’s a coin flip,” he said.

Earleywine is 450-152 all-time at Missouri and has led Missouri to the Women’s College World Series three times, with the last appearance coming in 2011.

Another WCWS trip is the goal, though Earleywine is under no illusion that a deep postseason run could help save his job.

“If it had anything to do with success, we wouldn’t be having this conversation,” Earleywine said.

A CHALLENGE OFF THE BAT: Earleywine expects Missouri’s biggest challenge during the regional to come Thursday against BYU. Although the Cougars are the fourth-seeded team in the regional, they feature “the best pitcher” in the regional, according to Earleywine.

BYU ace McKenna Bull has the numbers to back up that claim. She’s 26-11 with a 2.36 ERA. She averages 7.66 strikeouts per seven innings.

Missouri beat BYU 16-6 on Feb. 27, but Bull didn’t pitch in that game.

“She’s a stud,” Earleywine said. “We’ve got our work cut out.”

Earleywine said he plans to counter with Paige Lowary, Missouri’s ace who has a 22-6 record and 3.40 ERA. Lowary also didn’t pitch in that Feb. 27 matchup.
POSSIBLE CHANCE AT ATONEMENT: Nebraska beat Missouri in back-to-back games to capture the regional championship at University Field in 2014. Missouri’s three seniors — Crane, Gadbois and Fagan — started for that 2014 team, as did junior catcher Kirsten Mack.

Kelsea Roth was the starting first baseman on that 2014 team. She played her senior season last season before finishing her degree this year. She’s Gadbois’ roommate, and she wanted some assurance from Gadbois that Missouri wouldn’t miss its chance at payback.

“She’s like, ‘You better, you better kick their butt,’ ” Gadbois said. … “It would be awesome to show them that we are a good team. We might not have showed that two years ago, but I think we’re going to show that this year.”

Returning MU students have more opportunities to live on campus

COLUMBIA, Mo- The University of Missouri is letting returning students know that they have the option of living in the dorms.

MU’s residential life tweeted out a video explaining why living in the dorms could be a better option for some students.

This comes after the University announced that their incoming freshman class will have less than 5 thousand students, the lowest it has been in years.

The University will already be down three dormitory halls due to repair. However, there are still more than 700 available dorm spots for any M-U student who wants them.

The video markets returning students, promising anyone can move into a residence hall, even if they do not have the financial aid currently on hand. They also say they will be more flexible with those who are studying abroad, or leaving for just one semester.

So far Residential Life Director, Frankie Minor, says the advertisement is working out in their favor. They have been able to fill close to 500 spots in the past few weeks and believes there will be more to come but it’s hard to track the actual numbers, "Our high marks as far as the level of interest tends to be in May and June and then some students decide not to come here or decide not to live on campus."
ABC17 reached out to other student housing complexes in Columbia to see if this would affect their business, most said it wasn't.

MU sorority house torn down for bigger, improved space

COLUMBIA, Mo. - ABC 17 News has confirmed demolition is underway for the University of Missouri's Delta Gamma sorority house, now that school is out for the summer.

They are trying to finish their new building off Providence Road by August of next year, with more bedrooms and better Wi-Fi.

The new place will have better safety features and disability requirements. Even with the annex, some students still do not have a room.

In the meantime, they are going to live in apartments in downtown Columbia.

DEAR READER: Report on MU grad student health insurance shows the importance of open records

TOM WARHOVER, 1 hr ago

By now, we all know that canceling health insurance subsidies to MU graduate student employees in August was a mistake of momentous proportions.

As Julia Roberts said in “Pretty Woman:”
“Big mistake. Big.

“Huge!”

Today, graduate students and the administration are tangling over the students’ right to form a union. It’s hard to predict whether we’d be at this point anyway. Announcing that you’re canceling someone’s insurance the day before you actually do it sure didn’t help.

It’s not as traumatic as the landlord knocking on your door with the sheriff’s deputy behind him. But it’s bad.

So how could so many really smart people wind up making such a poor choice?

As reporter Austin Huguelet showed recently, there were actually a series of oopsy daisies and no-not-me’s leading up to the massive What the F…amily Newspaper.

Huguelet studied more than 2,000 pages of emails to untangle exactly who said what and when. The snarls were frequent, even though several people begged for the decision makers to, well, make a decision.

“Emails obtained through an open records request,” Huguelet wrote, “shed some light on the days leading up to (associate vice chancellor for graduate studies Leona) Rubin's Aug. 14 announcement that the health insurance subsidies would end.”

Huguelet’s reporting shows a complicated, sometimes confusing chain of events. You might come away blaming everyone involved. Or no one. But you, and I hope the people running Columbia’s biggest factory, gained some valuable insights.

Huguelet didn’t finish with emails. He reached out to several people involved in the blunder, reviewed public statements made at the time, and more. He worked through several drafts of the article.
But it began with open records that allowed we, the people, to see what public officials were thinking and doing.

That wouldn’t have happened with your elected officials down at Jeff City. As the Kansas City Star’s Jason Hancock reports, “Missouri lawmakers continue to argue they aren’t subject to the state’s open records laws.” So sayeth the House’s attorney about requests from the Star for emails and by The Associated Press for documents.

Hancock detailed other Sunshine Law drubbings in his column on winners and losers from the 2016 legislative session. The Senate still refuses to allow video recordings of public hearings. Bills have been sent to the governor that would limit access to police videos and agricultural data and crime scene photographs.

An update from the Missouri Press Association noted that there were a few Sunshine victories — if you count simply keeping what we have on the books as a victory. Police still can’t close records about attempted suicides, and the names of lottery winners are still public.

Why should you care? Because it’s the public business.

The lottery example reminds me of a story my former newspaper, the Virginian-Pilot, pursued about an Australian syndicate that managed to legally rig a lottery back when state sponsored gambling of this type was new. (I couldn’t find the Pilot stories, but here’s a New York Times piece on it.)

The point is, you never know when public information becomes critical to the people’s business.

So while your state legislators continue to put out the lights in our Sunshine Law, remember:

Good deeds are rarely done in the dark.
The New Language of Protest

As what some societal observers call a “new civil rights movement” begins, U.S. colleges and universities are faced with reconciling differences of opinion on a broadening set of issues: racial equality, sexual assault, Middle East policy, LGBT advocacy, mental health awareness and more. At the same time, they must reconcile increasing differences in background and culture as schools become ever more diverse.

Amid the volatile protests and debates on campuses this year, students at Princeton University called for rechristening Wilson College, named after the president who supported racial segregation. Students at Yale University forced the resignation of a professor who objected to strict limits on Halloween costumes. And at the University of Missouri, what started as a protest over racism expanded into a controversy about press freedom.

Just as the social turmoil of the 1960s generated new vocabulary — turn-on, sit-in, sexism — this latest wave of activism and upheaval is adding to our lexicon, with terms such as safe space, trigger warning, microaggression and cultural appropriation, which we explore here. We asked student leaders and activists from local universities to define these terms for us and to elaborate based on their own thoughts and experiences.

Many students believe these concepts foster inclusion, increase sensitivity and set up parameters in which difficult conversations can occur and marginalized voices can be heard. But critics, both on campus and off, call the concepts limiting, unrealistic, even un-American. They argue that creating safe spaces and using trigger warnings, for example, serve only to stifle free speech, coddle students and ignore both history and the reality found off campus.

The student leaders and activists we talked to have a ready answer to that last point. “I don’t think it’s outrageous for me to want my campus to be better than the world around it,” says Sasha Gilthorpe, outgoing student government president at American University. “I don’t think that makes me a stupid, naive child. I think that makes me a good person.”

Cultural appropriation

Naomi Zeigler: I see cultural appropriation as kind of taking different aspects of certain people’s culture without proper respect

Fadumo Osman: When I wear my traditional clothing I’m a foreigner and I’m criminalized for it, but when you wear it you make money off of it, and it’s cute.

Roquel Crutcher: Recently, braids are a thing, and that to me is cultural appropriation because I spent my entire life wanting to look like a white person, basically, and then the one moment where I do decide that I actually like the way that I look, it was kind of taken away from me. It’s just kind of hurtful, because the reason we wear braids is completely different from the reason white women wear braids, and it just takes away from the culture and from the fact that sometimes cultures don’t have a choice.
**Meri Salem:** These people have historically been marginalized and have been shamed for what they’re wearing or what they’re doing with their hair, etc., and now companies are profiting from it. But that profit isn’t changing the situation of the people who are still marginalized.

**Microaggression**

**Zeigler:** Microaggressions are words or actions that people say kind of without thinking of them that end up being offensive to certain communities. … A lot of times people will say, “Oh, you’re so busy and you’re so high-achieving because you’re Asian,” and that’s not really any of the reason. … And an interesting facet of it, too, is I’m adopted and my family — apart from my younger sister, who’s also adopted — is white. So there’s nothing there if we want to say it’s a cultural thing that’s really making me a quote-unquote better Asian.

**Crutcher:** People ask me to touch my hair. That’s a microaggression. The idea that my hair is something that is different and it doesn’t make much sense to you, so I have to, like, give you my head for you to experiment with is kind of degrading.

**Liam Baronofsky:** One microaggression is like one paper cut, so it’s something small but it hurts the person at the core of their identity level. But it happens so often, you come home every day with like 15 paper cuts … and it really hurts.

**Zanib Cheema:** Sometimes they’ll just stick my face on something… They were doing a university life presentation… and they had one slide and the title was “diversity,” and the face was me. That’s it … I’m not the only person, you know, it’s not just about me. There are so many minority groups; you can’t just put one title to it.

**Safe space**

**Osman:** A place where usually people who are marginalized to some degree can come together and communicate and dialogue and unpack their experiences.

**Nick Webb:** Sometimes I feel the white population can be left out of these conversations. … You can’t build and create equality without having everyone involved in the conversation.

**Crutcher:** When I wake up, I think about the fact that I’m black, I have to think about my hair, I have to think about my edges, I have to think about how I look … whether or not I look too this or too that, and that’s something that I get tired of doing sometimes. And so it makes me feel good to know if I can go somewhere and just be me without having to worry about changing who I am — that’s a safe space.

**Cheema:** You’re trying to create an environment which promotes people to feel comfortable enough to talk about things that typically won’t be spoken about … where people can speak up, where they feel like nothing that’s going to be said is going to be taken out and used against them.
**Zeigler:** It’s not a form of censorship, it’s just kind of a heads-up, like, “This is coming and we want you to be engaged, so we want to tell you this is here.” I welcome free speech, and I welcome speech that I don’t agree with, stuff that can be controversial. But at the same time I’m a real fan of empathy, and I think that’s what trigger warnings teach us.

**Sasha Gilthorpe:** A trigger is a psychological thing. Our generation hasn’t invented triggers, we are working to address the fact that there are people whose experiences exclude them from parts of our conversation. … You have to do something to be make sure that everybody can be educated; they can’t do the work and they can’t participate if you don’t create the conditions where everybody can participate.

**Cheema:** We have something called Take Back the Night. It’s basically like a protest rally that takes place on campus. We give a trigger warning before that because we have survivors who come up to the stand, and they talk about their specific experience in which they were sexually harassed and they go into a lot of detail. So it’s very vivid, it’s very real. … So we give a trigger warning then.

**Salem:** You don’t have to be tied to any one political identity to believe that people who have gone through post-traumatic stress deserve the right to acknowledge whether they want to participate.

**Responding to the charge that they are coddled**

**Gilthorpe:** So you’re really cool with the fact that one in five students are sexually assaulted, one in three people who have faced sexual assault have PTSD, students all over the country are saying their campuses are racist. Is that cool? That makes me coddled, for thinking that’s a problem?

**Osman:** I don’t think that respecting people’s existence is coddling, to be very frank.

**Baronofsky:** I don’t live in a bubble. I don’t just go to class and have never been in the real world at all.

**Allison Peters:** I think that somebody who says that has had very little experience in not being in a safe space.

**Starting the conversation**

**Crutcher:** Another thing that bothers me as a black woman is the idea that it’s my responsibility to educate people about these things. … You’ve been completely ignorant to my identity, and I’ve been forced my entire life to learn about yours. So I feel like it’s not too much for me to ask for you to learn that on your own. … Or for the administration, who is having all these kids come together who look differently, who act differently, to try to explain to them what those identities are and what they mean.
Osman: The questions get tiring, but they’re not malicious. There’s a difference between someone saying, “Hey, why do you wear that on your head?” as opposed to someone saying, “You’re a terrorist.” It’s tiring, but I think it’s needed.

Salem: If we’re in the classroom… I expect the professor to have some type of role in directing the conversation. We’re not seeing that in classrooms. Instead you’re trying to have people say their feelings but not necessarily have an academic perspective.

Zeigler: I like to think that people are good — we’ve just been socialized to do bad things, to have a mind-set that’s discriminatory, that’s problematic. But I like to think that most people want to be better.

Peters: Our society is changing. We’re broadening the scope of what it means to be a man, to be a woman, to be a person.