

Brouwer RW, van Raaij TM, et al. Osteotomy for treating knee osteoarthritis. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2007, Issue 3.Art.No.:CD004019

Design: Systematic review of randomized and nonrandomized clinical trials

Study purpose: to assess the effectiveness of a valgus high tibial osteotomy (HTO) for treating medial compartment osteoarthritis of the knee.

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- At the time the review was done, the authors were not able to find any studies of osteotomy versus conservative treatment, which would be an important comparison to make for any operative procedure
- The majority of studies were technical studies (different types of osteotomy), and did not show evidence that one procedure was superior to another
- Two studies comparing HTO with unicompartmental joint replacement did not show evidence that the outcomes differed
- The quality of the studies as rated by the authors was low
- Knee outcome scores improved after HTO and also after the procedures with which it was compared
- Criteria for selecting HTO over other treatments, or choosing between different approaches to HTO, were not evident to the authors
- Future studies will need to be done, in which adherence to basic study quality criteria (such as concealed randomization) are carried out and adequately reported