



# A NEW WAY TO TREAT MENISCAL INJURIES

## Patient information

### Meniscal Injuries: Explained

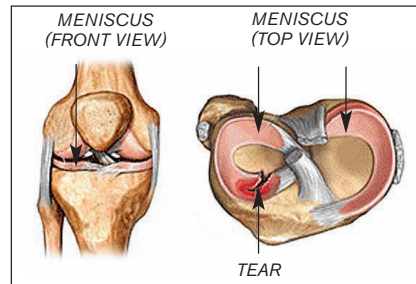
Knee joints are subjected to tremendous demand for stability, range of motion and weight bearing in everyday use. The menisci are very important crescent, wedge-shaped structures located between the upper leg (femur) and the lower leg (tibia). There is a medial (inner) and a lateral (outer) meniscus. The menisci have a number of important functions such as distributing your entire weight over the joint surfaces of the lower leg, shock absorption, and stabilization of the knee joint during movement and in particular when doing sports. Furthermore, they are important for the lubrication and nourishment of the joint surfaces.

The normal menisci are very robust but can tear when they are overstretched or have a lot of pressure placed on them. In such a case,

attempt to repair the meniscus is essential because removing a meniscus or even parts of it (known as a meniscectomy) lead to the loss of these important joint protective functions and therefore may result in breakdown of the articular cartilage (the white, glossy, smooth tissue that covers the bones) with painful, disabling osteoarthritis as a consequence. Further surgical treatment is often necessary and ultimately a total knee replacement (endoprostheses) may be the

only alternative left. Therefore it is important to whenever possible attempt to repair the menisci, or failing that to surgically remove the damaged tissue (partial meniscectomy) as this may cause pain and locking of the knee joint. Regardless, the objective is to preserve as much of the meniscal tissue as possible.

A repair is only possible in 15-20% of cases and in most instances partial removal of meniscal tissue is therefore the standard procedure. A new innovative material has been developed to help facilitate new meniscus tissue ingrowth. Significant pain relief and increased functionality lead to improved quality of life and the need for further surgery can be avoided. Importantly in the long term regaining lost meniscus tissue has the potential to prevent ongoing degeneration of the knee joint or to slow it down significantly.

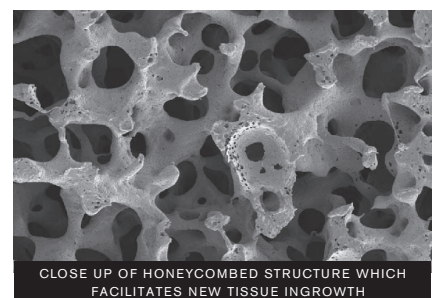


### What is Actifit®?

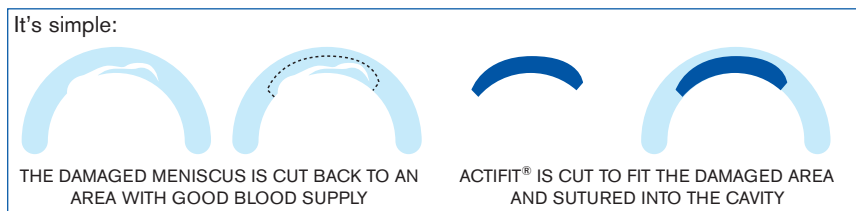
Orteq has developed Actifit<sup>®</sup>, a new biodegradable polymer that facilitates new tissue growth in a damaged meniscus. It is a bioengineering solution specifically designed to provide a solution for lost meniscus damage and therefore pain and disability following irreparable meniscal damage. Actifit<sup>®</sup> is a synthetic material with a highly interconnected porous structure. It is

implanted during keyhole surgery and sutured into the area of lost meniscus tissue.

Actifit's<sup>®</sup> sponge like structure facilitates blood vessels to grow into it and for new tissue to be generated around them. Over time the new tissue matures and transforms into meniscus-like tissue while the Actifit<sup>®</sup> material slowly degrades and is removed naturally by the body.



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