

TECHNICAL TIPS FOR PONTiS FLEXOR TENDON REPAIR

SUTURING

- The first pass is made perpendicular to the long axis of the tendon, 1 - 1.2 cm from the cut end.
- The second pass is also made perpendicular to the long axis of the tendon, 0.6 cm from the cut end.
- The needle should exit the MIDDLE of the tendon end to ensure that the crimp does not end up too volar within the tendon repair site.
- After making the cross-lock, tension each suture individually by pulling firmly. This ensures that the cross-lock sits flush and firmly on the surface of the tendon and does not loosen.

PASSING SUTURES THROUGH THE CRIMP

- Cut off the needles.
- Pass the coated part of the PONTiS suture through the crimp. To thread the final or fourth suture, hold the suture very near its end. An assistant may help by pulling the sutures that are already in the crimp to one side. As the last suture enters the crimp, the assistant may pull the other strands in the same direction, which pulls the final suture through the crimp.
- To pass the last suture through the crimp, hold the suture close to its end. Holding the end of the suture with a needle holder may be helpful.
- Once again, pull EACH STRAND INDEPENDENTLY to firmly tighten the cross-lock.
- Place one 5-0 or 6-0 epitendonous stitch to ensure exact rotation for the repair.

CRIMPING

- When positioning the crimp tool, be careful not to have the jaws include any tendon – include only the crimp.
- Ensure that the tool is rotated correctly before crimping.
- Be careful not to crush any suture – Only the crimp.
- Hold the crimp tool in position for 5 seconds.
- Cut the suture as close as possible to the crimp.

TESTING

- Take the tendon through 5-10 excursions after completing the repair