Rehabilitation of a Tibial Plateau Fracture within an Elite Female Mountainbiker

Case Report



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Athlete Profile:
Tibial Plateau Fracture
caused by rotational
fall during skiing

Career
threatening
injury
(Liitmatainen
etal 2009)

Elite Professional Female Endurance Mountainbiker

Age: 32

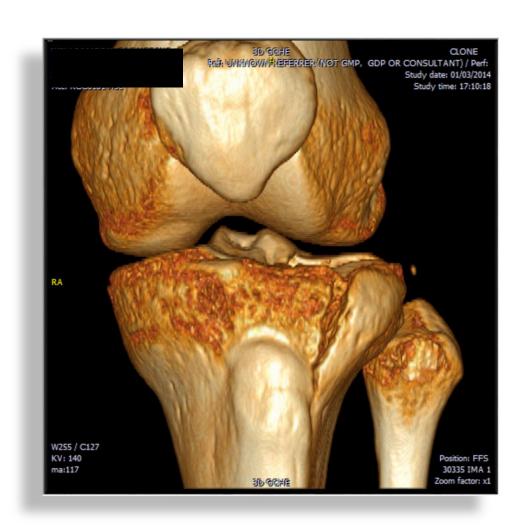
Height: 1.52m

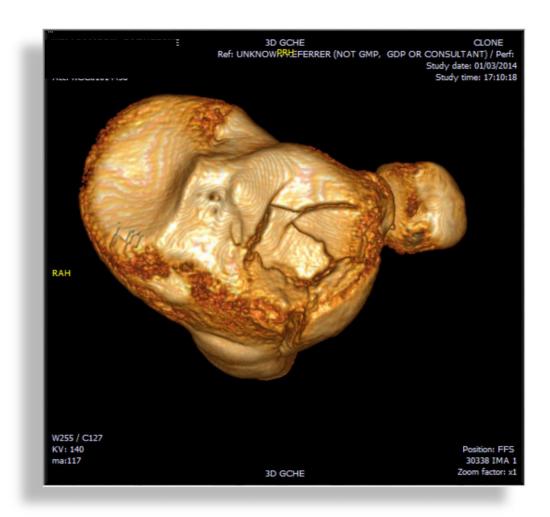
BM: 51Kg

Post surgery; complete rest for 10 weeks?

Future status and sponsorship?

Superolateral Tibial Plateau Fracture





Fracture Extent and Screw Fixation Placement





Potential Causes

Challenges

12 weeks running on Alpine Roads

Microcracks within tibia (Barfeldt etal 2011)

Female athlete triad? (Birch, 2005)

Oestrogen reduction?

Screw fixation placement

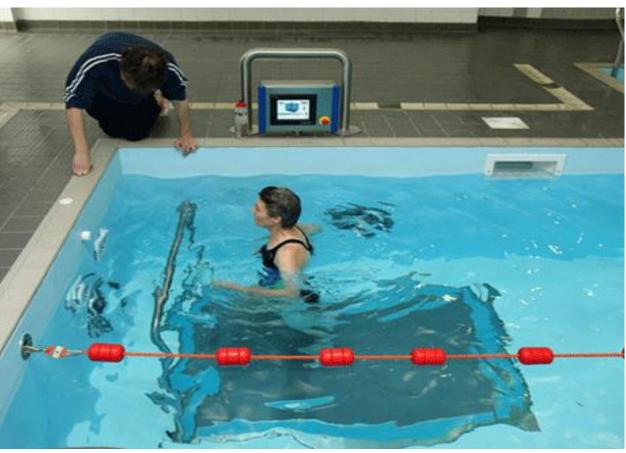
Pain/Loss of function and confidence

UCI MTB Marathon 17 weeks post Injury

Underwater Rehabilitation PWB Crutch Treadmill 10% Overview Proprioception BW/Flume 3-12 weeks Post Running/Hop Injury Cryocuff **Endurance Pool** Static Bike Running **Crutch Gait** Endurance Visualisation >Protein Intensity Flexibility ROMS **NWB Pool** Badu Massage Road/MTB Running with Jets **Outdoors** Flume -S&C/Ipsi/Contra **Bike Position**

Bespoke Hydro Pool facility at Teesside University





Rehabilitation in Focus

Impellizzeri & Marcora, (2007) determined that 80% of cross country mountainbike racing was at or above lactate threshold

Flume resistance utilising RPE 0-10 scale (Borg et al, 1985) enabled threshold/suprathreshold intensity to be achieved

Hydro pool 40-45° spinal flexion angle for cycling position, with cadence at 90 rpm (Ferrer-Roca et al 2012).

Recommendations of 30-35° knee flexion angle were also achieved pain free (Bini etal, 2014)

Resisted upper limb seated rowing, woodchopper and upright rows were introduced. Supine swiss ball press (knee flexed 35°) with dumbbell also addressed specific upper limb conditioning. Hand positions replicated handlebar width. Core/ Upper/Lower strength exercises were progressively applied to initiate conditioning for mountainbiking (Andrews etal 2012)

Outcome Measures

Functional movement Screen (Minnick etal

2010)

Caraphical Evaluation

University

Left

Consideration

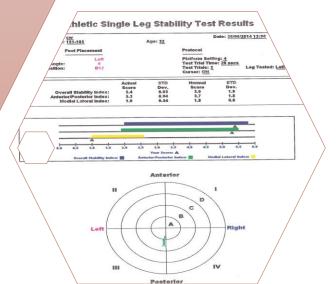
Considerat

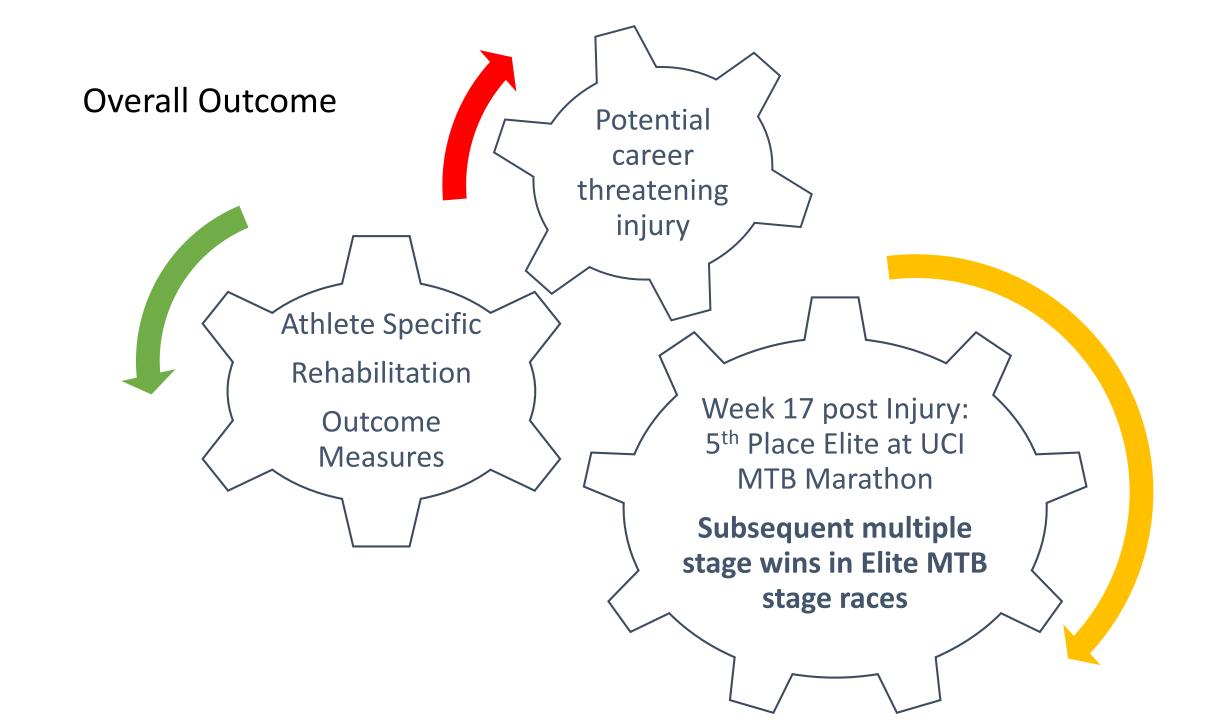
Biodex Dynamometer (Drouin etal 2004)



Biodex Balance System

(Cachupe etal 2001)





Conclusion



Aquatic cycling specific rehabilitation can enhance general conditioning and motivation for the elite cyclist, whilst optimising the natural healing process.

Regardless of the complexity of injury, the application of an evidenced based multidisciplinary approach, employing specificity to the athletes sporting demands provides optimum rehabilitation for the elite athlete.

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