



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Shoulder Degenerative Joint Disease and Rotator Cuff Arthropathy: What Can We Do Now

Matthew Vopat, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine
Team Physician for Kansas City Current
Team Physician for U.S. Ski & Snowboard Team



1

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Disclosure Information

- No disclosures pertaining to this subject.

1/29/2025 2

2

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Epidemiology

- Shoulder OA been shown to affect up to 32.8% >60 y/o
 - Prevalence ↑ w/ age & more common in women
- 3rd most common type OA
- In the US, from 2007 to 2015
 - Procedures for Shoulder OA ↑ 322%
 - 66,185 pts were d/c from hospital w/ diagnosis of Shoulder OA



3

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Types of Shoulder Arthritis

- Primary ("wear & tear")
- Secondary
 - Rotator Cuff Arthropathy
 - Inflammatory Arthritis (RA)
 - Inflammatory/Crystalline Arthritis
 - AVN
 - Post-traumatic
 - Neuropathic (Charcot Arthropathy)

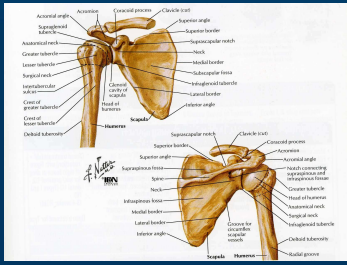


1/29/2025

4

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Shoulder Anatomy



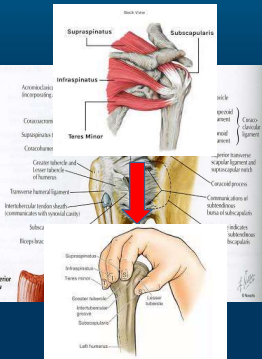
1/29/2025

5

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Glenohumeral Stability

- Static Restraints
 - Glenohumeral Ligaments
 - Glenoid Labrum
 - Articular congruity & version
 - Negative intraarticular pressure
 - If released head will sublux inferiorly
- Dynamic Restraints
 - RC muscles
 - Biceps Long tendon
 - Periscapular Muscles



1/29/2025

6

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Primary Osteoarthritis ("wear & tear")

- Cause
 - Unknown
 - Genetic?
- Pathophysiology
 - Irreversible progression loss of articular cartilage w/ hypertrophic reaction of subchondral bone
- Presentation
 - Chronic (atraumatic?)
 - Shoulder pain → worse w/ activities & pain at night
 - ↓ ROM


1/29/2025 7

7

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Primary Osteoarthritis ("wear & tear")

- Physical Exam
 - ↓ both PROM & AROM
 - Especially w/ ER
 - Crepitus & tenderness w/ ROM
 - Usually Good strength when accessing RC
 - Jobes
 - ER
 - Bear hug
 - Lift off test
 - Belly press test
 - Often times have associated biceps tendonitis symptoms
 - Tenderness over BG
 - +Speeds
 - +Yergason's



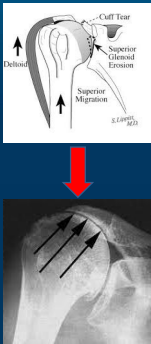
1/29/2025 8

8

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Rotator Cuff Arthropathy

- Pathophysiology
 - Loss of Dynamic Compression from RC insufficiency
 - → abnormal GH wear & Superior Migration of the Humeral Head
- Risk factors
 - RC tear
 - Inflammatory Arthritis (RA)
 - Crystalline-induced Arthropathy
 - Hemorrhagic Shoulder
- Presentation
 - Usually older patients (7th decade, but not always...)
 - Shoulder Pain
 - Subjective Weakness & Stiffness



1/29/2025 9

9

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Rotator Cuff Arthropathy

- Physical Exam
 - Inspection
 - supraspinatus/infraspinatus atrophy
 - Limited AROM/PROM
 - Creptus w/ ROM
 - Pseudoparalysis
 - RC insufficiency Test
 - ER Lag Sign
 - Hornblower Sign



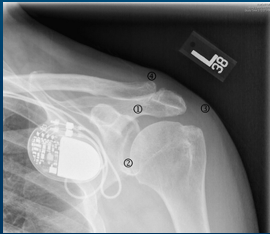
1/29/2025 10

10

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Imaging

- XRs
 - AP
 - Grashey
 - Scapular Y
 - Axillary (& Grashey are the most important)
- MRI
 - Pacemaker?
 - CTA vs. Ultrasound
- CT
 - Evaluate significant boney deformity for pre-operative planning




1/29/2025 11

11

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Imaging Findings for Primary OA

- XRs
 - Joint space narrowing
 - Subchondral Cysts
 - Osteophytes
 - "Goats beard deformity"
 - Posterior Wear of Glenoid (axillary view)
- MRI
 - 5-10% RC Tear




1/29/2025 12

12

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Imaging Findings for Rotator Cuff Arthropathy

- XRs
 - Humeral Head Migration
 - Acromial Acetabularization
 - Asymmetric superior glenoid wear
- MRI
 - Irreparable RC tear w/
 - Severe retraction
 - Massive fatty infiltration



1/26/2025 13

13

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

First Line of Treatment → Non-op

- Activity Modification
- NSAIDs & Acetaminophen
- PT
- "Is there supplementations that can help?"
 - Turmeric?



Therapeutic effects of turmeric or curcumin extract on pain and function for individuals with knee osteoarthritis: a systematic review
Christopher Pauline^{1,2}, William Coker³, Daniel Hernandez³, John Reynolds⁴, Dylan Grant⁵, Christopher Pauline^{1,2}


1/26/2025 14

14

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Injections

- Ultrasound guidance?
 - Primary OA → Intraarticular
 - RC Arthropathy → Subacromial
- Steroid
 - VAS Pain → can improve up to 12 months
 - Function improve → 4 months
 - Severity of OA did not affect duration of relief
- Hyaluronic acid
 - Mixed results
 - Not FDA approved for shoulder
- PRP Leu Poor
 - PRP vs. HA
 - No difference in pain & functional outcomes
 - Both illustrated significant improvements in both pain & functional outcomes



1/26/2025 15

15

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Failed Non-Op Treatment? What now?



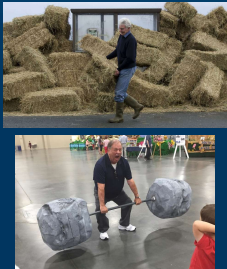
1/26/2025 16

16

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Considerations for Operative Treatment

- Age
 - Really what we mean → physiological age
- Quality of Soft tissues
 - MRI to evaluate RC
 - Severity of the Arthritis



1/26/2025 17

17

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Joint Preserving Techniques

- Younger patients (<50-65 yrs of age) w/ Good RC Tissue
 - Comprehensive Arthroscopic Management (CAM Procedure)
 - Ultimate goal → improve ROM & Pain
 - Key word "improve"
 - At 10 years
 - Mean age 53 y/o at time of surgery
 - Functional Outcomes (ASES scores)
 - » Significant improved at 5 & 10 years
 - Survivorship from arthroplasty
 - » 5 yrs → 75.3%
 - » 10 yrs → 63.2%
 - Pre-op ↑ of Significance of Arthritis
 - » Was associated w/ future arthroplasty

CAM - Procedure

Survivorship and Patient-Reported Outcomes After Comprehensive Arthroscopic Management of Glenohumeral Osteoarthritis: Minimum 10-Year Follow-up

Justin W. Ames^{1,2}, Rogers P. Elcock², Philip C. Natchez², Daniel B. Hadler^{1,2}, Vladimir P. Proctor², Justin A. Lott²

2 large humeral heads shoulder following arthroscopic excision of the osteophyte

1/26/2025 18


18

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Joint Preserving Techniques

- Younger patients (<50-65 yrs of age) w/ RC insufficiency
 - Superior Capsule Reconstruction (SCR)
 - Indications:
 - Young laborer failed non-operative treatment
 - Massive Irreparable Superior RC Tear (Supra/Infra)
 - Minimal to no arthritis
 - Intact Subscap
 - Goal → improve ROM & pain
 - Significant Improvement in Function & Pain
 - ASES → 44.2 to 84.8
 - VAS → 5 to 1.5
 - Forward elevation
 - 111 degrees to 152 degrees

PROBLEM CHILD



Sources, Quality, and Reported Outcomes of Superior Capsular Reconstruction: a Systematic Review

Super (Ghaheri)¹, Anthony T ADE², Muhammad Memon³, Timothy Lencua⁴, Patrick Henry⁵, Jafarshah Badi⁶, Kishor Khan⁷ &

Review > *Curr Rev Musculoskelet Med*. 2019 Jun;12(2):173-180. doi: 10.1007/s12178-019-09511-9. Epub 2019 Jun 20.


1/29/2025 19

19

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Joint Preserving Technique

- Younger patients (<50-65 yrs of age) w/ RC insufficiency
 - Lower Trapezius Tendon Transfer
 - Indications:
 - Young laborer failed non-operative treatment
 - Massive Irreparable Superior RC Tear (Supra/Infra)
 - Lack ER
 - Minimal to no arthritis
 - Intact Subscap
 - Goal: improve ROM & pain
 - Forward Elevation
 - 10° to 66°
 - Forward Elevation
 - 11° to 63°
 - Significant improvement in PROs



Lower Trapezius Transfer Improves Clinical Outcomes With a Rate of Complications and Reoperations Comparable to Other Surgical Alternatives in Patients with Functionally Irreparable Rotator Cuff Tears: A Systematic Review

Rodrigo de Marín¹, Erick M Marín², Yousef Attouh³, Roberto Velazquez Garcia⁴, Mark E Murrey⁵, Joaquín Sánchez-Sotelo⁶

Review > *Arthroscopy*. 2024 May;40(5):950-958. doi: 10.1016/j.arthro.2023.06.029. Epub 2023 Jun 30.

1/29/2025 20

20

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Joint Preserving Techniques

- Older Patients (FDA approval >65 y/o) w/ irreparable RC tear & minimal arthritis
 - Subacromial balloon spacer
 - Recently been FDA approved in the US
 - Short Term Outcomes
 - Forward Flexion
 - Mean improvement → 24°
 - ER
 - Mean improvement → 15°
 - Significant Improvement in PROs & Pain

Outcomes of subacromial balloon spacer implantation for irreparable rotator cuff tears: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Alexander M Berk¹, William M Oranger¹, Kennedy K Gachig², David P Trufa³, Shadley C Schifano⁴, Nadya Hamed⁵, Allison J Rao⁶, Bryan M Saitzman⁷

Review > *J Shoulder Elbow Surg*. 2023 Oct;32(10):2180-2191. doi: 10.1016/j.jse.2023.04.016. Epub 2023 May 27.

Affiliations → expand
PMID: 37247776 DOI: 10.1016/j.jse.2023.04.016


1/29/2025 21

21

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Shoulder Arthroplasty

- Older patient (>50-65) & intact RC
 - Anatomic Total Shoulder arthroplasty
 - Main goal → improve pain & function
 - Second goal → ROM
 - FF → 96° to 160°
 - ER → 26° to 64°
 - Survivorship
 - 8 yrs → 96%



Anatomic total shoulder arthroplasty for primary glenohumeral osteoarthritis is associated with excellent outcomes and low revision rates in the elderly
 Andrew R. Jansen¹, Jennifer Tongthaboonkarn², Erick Marage³, Katherine S. Hubert⁴, John W. Sperling⁵, Jonathan Sanchez-Sotelo⁶

Comparison of survivorship and performance of a platform shoulder system in anatomic and reverse total shoulder arthroplasty
 Pierre-Emmanuel Flouton¹, Carl Tena², Ryan W. Smolovich³, Christopher Knudsen⁴, Christopher Bailey⁵, Thomas W. Wright⁶, Joseph J. LaBat⁷, Bradley S. Schug⁸

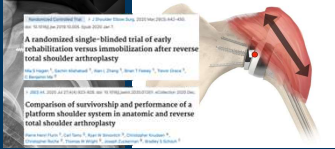
1/29/2025

22

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Shoulder Arthroplasty

- Older patients (>65 years of age) with RC arthropathy or poor tissue
 - Reverse Total Shoulder Arthroplasty
 - Main goal → improve pain & function
 - Second goal → improve ROM
 - FF → ↑ 32°
 - Abd → ↑ 22°
 - Survivorship
 - 8 yrs → 96%



A randomized single-blinded trial of early rehabilitation versus immobilization after reverse total shoulder arthroplasty
 Peter Wagner¹, David Stokich², John J. Wang³, Brian T. Pinsky⁴, David J. D'Amico⁵

Comparison of survivorship and performance of a platform shoulder system in anatomic and reverse total shoulder arthroplasty
 Pierre-Emmanuel Flouton¹, Carl Tena², Ryan W. Smolovich³, Christopher Knudsen⁴, Christopher Bailey⁵, Thomas W. Wright⁶, Joseph J. LaBat⁷, Bradley S. Schug⁸


1/29/2025

23

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Questions?

mvopat@kumc.edu



1/29/2025

24
