Product Design Specifications

Osteochondral Graft Tapping System

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Function: Osteochondral allografts (OCAs) are used to repair chondral defects in young, active patients. The current procedure involves cutting the graft from cadaveric tissue, then using impaction to drive the graft into a low-clearance receiving hole drilled over the defect. The large impulse associated with graft impaction often leads to decreases in grafted chondrocyte viability, and negatively affects procedure outcomes [1]. To avoid deleterious impaction, we created a screw-in system which taps the patient receiving site and threads the donor graft allowing the graft to be screwed into the patient. Initial testing revealed that this new system has significantly higher implanted chondrocyte viability when compared to the impaction protocol. While this method increases chondrocyte viability, it is challenging to screw the graft flush with the native host tissue. Thus, the aim is to develop an OCA screwdriver that allows the surgeon to fully insert the graft and align it with the native tissue.

Client Requirements

1. The tool must allow graft insertion and removal from the recipient site so graft depth can be adjusted.
2. The tool must permit a graft height offset from native tissue of no more than ±1.0mm.
3. After graft preparation and insertion, chondrocyte viability must be consistently greater than 70%, which has been shown to be a threshold to successful graft integration [1].
4. The entire system must be sterilized before use in surgery.
5. The tool must be quick to use, and easy to learn so as not to drastically alter the current surgical practice.
6. Damage to the chondral surface must be no greater than what presently occurs during OCA transplantation.

Design Requirements

1. **Physical and Operational Characteristics**
    1. **Performance Requirements**
        1. Threading the graft and receiving site should not damage the articular cartilage
            1. It should limit gouging, scratching, and other mechanical alterations to the native, or graft cartilage.
            2. It should not result in significant chondrocyte death after use

2. Insertion of the graft must be easily executed so as to minimize the risk of tissue damage.
3. During the procedure, the graft should be easy to insert and remove allowing the surgeon to adjust the graft depth.
4. The tool must be easy to secure to and remove from the graft.

2. **Safety**
    1. The delivery system should not increase the chances of postoperative complications, including (but not limited to) infection, tissue death, or graft dislocation.
    2. Long term, the graft must not lead to an associated cartilage disorder, significant fissuring or fibrous tissue infiltration, or improper tissue integration.
3. **Accuracy and Reliability**
    1. The device should allow for successful graft integration into the recipient site. This means that the procedure should maintain at least 70% chondrocyte viability after implantation.
    2. The device should include a protocol to match the contour of the donor plug and recipient site that results in a height differential no greater than ±1.0 mm.
4. **Life in Service**
    1. Non-disposable components must be serializable to allow for repeated use
    2. Life of device materials will vary depending on chosen stainless steel alloy.
    3. Disposable components should be minimized in the design to prevent excessive recurring costs.
5. **Shelf Life**
    1. Capable of storage at room temperature.
    2. Must be compliant with hospital regulations of storage.
    3. Shelf life is not likely to present as a significant design consideration.
6. **Operating Environment**
    1. Tool use must not compromise sterility of the device or surgical field.
    2. Must function within range of operating room temperatures, in addition to *in vivo* conditions.
    3. Must be usable in concurrence with all other orthopedic tools and materials.
7. **Ergonomics**
    1. The device must be designed for comfortable handheld use by the orthopedic surgeon during the procedure.
    2. To promote easy rotation, the tool must be easy to locate over the central-axis of the graft.
8. **Size**
    1. Tools will be appropriately sized for handheld usage by orthopedic surgeon.
    2. The device should accommodate bone graft sizes must range between 10 mm - 25 mm in diameter and 7 mm - 12 mm deep.
9. **Weight**
    1. Since the device will be hand-held, its ultimate weight should not be so heavy that it is cumbersome, nor should it fatigue the surgeon during use.

10. **Materials**
    1. All materials must pass ISO regulations to corrosion resistance and excessive wear from use [2]–[4].
    2. Tools involved in the procedure must be sterilizable or disposable.
11. **Aesthetics**
    1. Aesthetics will serve as a secondary initiative to the function of the final product.

1. **Production Characteristics**
    1. **Quantity**
        1. One prototype capable of inserting the graft into the patient.
            1. The prototype may have more than one component.
    2. **Components**
        1. The final product must consist of a mechanism for inserting the graft into the recipient hole.
            1. The tool must interface with the graft to prevent slip during rotation for insertion.
            2. Must have a handle for the surgeon to grasp during use.
2. **Miscellaneous**
    1. **Standards and Specifications**
        1. The final product must comply with the FDA standard for manual surgical instruments as stated by CFR 21 - Subchapter H - Medical Devices [5]
    2. **Customer**
        1. Orthopedic surgeons implanting an osteochondral allograft
    3. **Patient Related Concerns**
        1. Decreasing chondrocytes cell viability leads to diminished graft integrity.
        2. Unwanted debris and fragments of the graft may be released into the synovial fluid environment and cause other complications.
    4. **Current Systems**
        1. Arthrex Osteochondral Allograft Transfer System (OATS). This system is the prototypical system used in osteochondral transplant procedures (and is most similar to the system Dr. Walczak uses). It uses a sizing guide, guide wire, and cannulating reamer to size, locate, and ream the chondral defect. The allograft is prepared using the hole saw which is guided by a manually held ring. The impaction rods forces the graft into the receiving hole [6].
        2. Zimmer Chondrofix Osteochondral Allograft. This system uses a hollow punch hammered into the bone to guide the drill bit during receiving site preparation. There is no need to prepare an allograft since it comes with a pre-made, decellularized allograft that fits precisely in the hole created by the punch and drill bit. The graft is inserted the majority of the way using the insertion tool, and is pounded in the reminder of the way using an impaction rod [7].
        3. COR Precision Targeting System. This is the only surgical system that claims to address chondrocyte viability concerns associated with OCA transplantation. The tool encloses the graft during harvesting and insertion to protect it from mishandling. The surgical guide also claims to use “low

impaction insertion" but does not describe how impaction forces are minimized relative to traditional tools. Despite the promise with the system, it is not currently in use in human OCA transplantation. [8]

4. There are no direct competitors, and of the ones currently in use, all rely on graft impaction.

References

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