Dr. Ian Lo

"Clinical and cost effectiveness of rotator cuff augmentation with human dermal allograft versus bovine collagen xenograft patch: a randomized controlled trial"

Rotator cuff tears are a common injury to the shoulder, and the chance of having a rotator cuff tear increases greatly with age. Surgery to fix rotator cuff tears is common and generally has a high success rate, however healing in some tears/patients remains a challenge. Augmentation with a graft has become an important tool for shoulder surgeons to address these challenging tears. Grafts can be made from various materials with different benefits and drawbacks to each.

This study aims to compare two commonly used graft types in augmentation of a rotator cuff repair: human dermal allograft versus bovine collagen xenograft.

Patients who provide informed consent and meet all study criteria, will be randomly assigned to one of the two types of graft. Follow-up will occur at 2 weeks, 3 mos, 6 mos, 12 mos and 24 mos post-operative. The primary outcome of the study is the Western Ontario Rotator Cuff questionnaire (WORC), which was designed and tested specifically in rotator cuff patients. Both patients and the research assistant collecting outcomes will be blinded (that is, they will not know which type of patch they received) until the end of the study. Range of motion and strength, as well as a couple of other shoulder questionnaires will also be collected at each timepoint. Further, healing, as assessed via MRI will also be assessed at one-year post-operative.

102 patients will be included in this study.