

Strength Training Exercises for Skiers to Avoid Common Knee Injuries

BEND, OR, UNITED STATES, January 20, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Orthopedic surgeons at The Center in Bend, Oregon, see an increased number of knee injuries and fractures during the months when people are skiing the slopes regularly. Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for powder days to end on a painful note for some skiers who experience a torn ligament in their knee. While all injuries can't be avoided, there are some ways to help prevent knee injuries from skiing.



Preventing Knee Injuries from Skiing

The knee is made up of four main

things: bones, cartilage, ligaments, and tendons. A ligament is a short band of tough fibrous tissue that connects bone to bone. The four primary ligaments in your knee hold the bones together and help stabilize your knee. Ligaments can become easily injured because the knee joint relies just on ligaments and surrounding muscles for stability. Skiing often requires a rapid change in direction and hard muscle contraction, which can cause ligament damage.

Two of the ligaments that are commonly damaged from skiing are the ACL and MCL. These types of injuries account for 20 – 33% of all skiing related injuries. Common risk factors for suffering a ligament tear include being of the female sex, having lower core strength, being overweight, and not having enough experience. Other factors such as trail and mountain conditions, quality of equipment, and prior ligamentous injury can also increase the risk of a knee injury.

Proper preparation is key to avoiding knee injuries from skiing. Many studies have shown that with strength training and focus on flexibility, the likelihood of a knee injury can be reduced. It is also important to learn the correct ski technique by taking lessons from professionals. Weather and mountain conditions can play a big factor in injuries. Keep up-to-date on the latest snow reports and consider the conditions before you go. When on the mountain, be mindful of your body and how you are feeling. Rest to keep your body from fatiguing, which can increase your likelihood of injury. Evaluate your ski equipment, which should fit properly and be appropriate

for your height, weight, and ski level.

Strength training before and during ski season can make a significant difference in injury prevention. Before beginning a training program, it's suggested to modify exercises according to age and ability and to always check with your doctor. Beneficial exercises that can help build core strength and knee stability include double leg squats, single-leg squats, side to side skaters, side plank or leg lifts, hamstring curls, deadlifts, and modified wall sits. Practice these exercises regularly along with proper body alignment, balance training, stretching, and warming up before heading to the mountain.

When a knee is first injured, the <u>RICE method</u> can help speed recovery. If the injury is not responding to rest, ice, compression, and elevation, an orthopedic specialist should be seen as soon as possible. If you hear a "pop," have significant pain or swelling, or sense instability in the knee, make an appointment or use The Center's NOWcare walk-in clinic, open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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