"So you can't fix my rotator cuff tendon tear"

Dale Snead, MD

Upper Extremity Surgeon

Forté Sports Medicine and Orthopedics



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Types of RC tendon tears

- Acute
- Acute on chronic
- Chronic



Description of RC tendon tears

- **Partial (50%)**
- Complete
- Degenerative
- Massive
- Retracted
- Irreparable
- Atrophy of the muscles









Why do RC tendons tear?

- Traumatic
- Degenerative



Natural history of RC tendon

- Degenerative tears occur as we age
- Most tears occur in those over 60
- 25% of patients over 60 and 50% of those over 80 will have a RC tendon tear

- Strong genetic influence
- Overhead activities and repetitive actions (Workers Comp)



Massive/Irreparable RC tendon tears

- How did I get a tendon tear?
- How do Physicians know the tear is massive/irreparable
- What are my options?



Inspection





Radiographs





Imaging







- Physical therapy
- Works well for acute on chronic tears
- Injections
- Partial repair of RC tendon



- Grafting of RC tendon
 Regeneten bovine

 - Arthoflex graft cadaver skin







- Tendon transfers
 - Latissimus dorsi
 - Trapezius





• Superior capsular reconstruction (SCR)





Tuberoplasty





• Reverse total shoulder arthroplasty







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