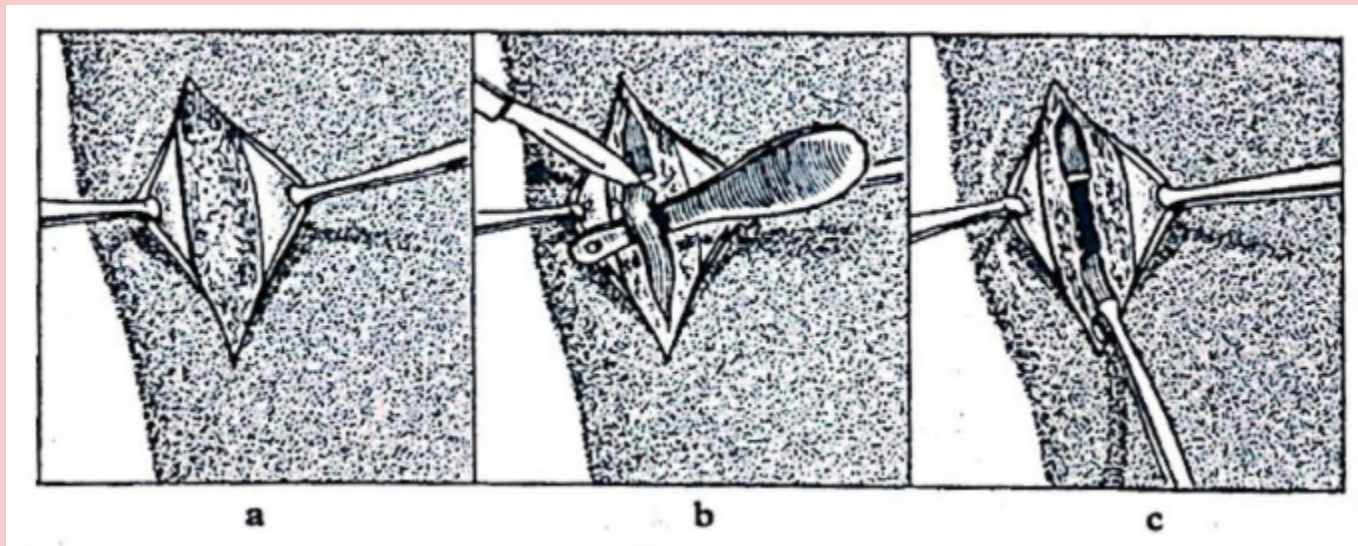


Medial Patellar Ligament Desmotomy (MPD)

Procedure:

1. For this procedure the horse remains standing. The horse is sedated and the skin at the area of the incision is surgically prepared and anesthetized with local anesthetic.
2. A 1 cm vertical incision is made over the medial border of the middle patellar ligament close to the ligament's attachment to the tibial tuberosity (a subcutaneous fat pad is located in this area and thus the operator is less likely to enter the FPT).
3. Curved Kelly forceps are forced through the fascia and passed behind the medial patellar ligament to isolate and exteriorize it.
4. A curved bistoury knife is inserted into this channel, the cutting edge is turned outward, and the ligament is cut. (The blade should be fully advanced to the other side of the medial patellar ligament before the ligament is severed.)
5. The skin is closed routinely.



To decrease the risk of complications, a prolonged period of rest is recommended before the animal is turned out. This allows some scarring to occur at the surgery site to improve realignment and stabilization of the patella in the intertrochanteric groove.