**Medial Patellar Ligament Desmotomy**

Description

This is a surgical procedure that is done to correct the upward fixation (locking) of the Patella.

Procedure

The procedure is done with the horse standing and is sedated with Xylazine while there is local anaesthesia with Lidocaine. A vertical incision is made over the ligament and the medial patellar ligament is cut and the incision site is sutured back together. This will prevent the patella from catching on the medial trochlear ridge of the femur and so it will no longer lock.

Post Operative

Postoperatively there should be stall rest and assisted walking over a period of 90 days. There should be an absence in the locking of the patella and there should be mild swelling. The horse should also be given painkillers, antibiotics and inflammatory drugs to aid with healing of the wound and pain management

A more modern attempt to fix the upward fixation of the patella can be attempted by doing a medial patellar ligament splitting.