

Arthroscopic Evaluation of the Impingement Lesion

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Shoulder pain may present from different pathologies that may be similar in their symptoms and signs. Treatment of shoulder pain by Arthroscopic Subacromial Decompression solely on clinical grounds may cause poor results on non-impingement cases. Arthroscopic evaluation and classification of the impingement lesion is very important in decision making in the treatment of shoulder pain. We have therefore proposed an arthroscopic grading system based on the assessment of the undersurface of the acromium and the superior surface of the cuff and bursa for lesions caused by the mechanical effects of impingement.

Pathological Classification of the Impingement Lesion

Acromial Side

A0 Normal
A1 Minor Scuffing
A2 Marked damage
A3 Bare Bone Areas

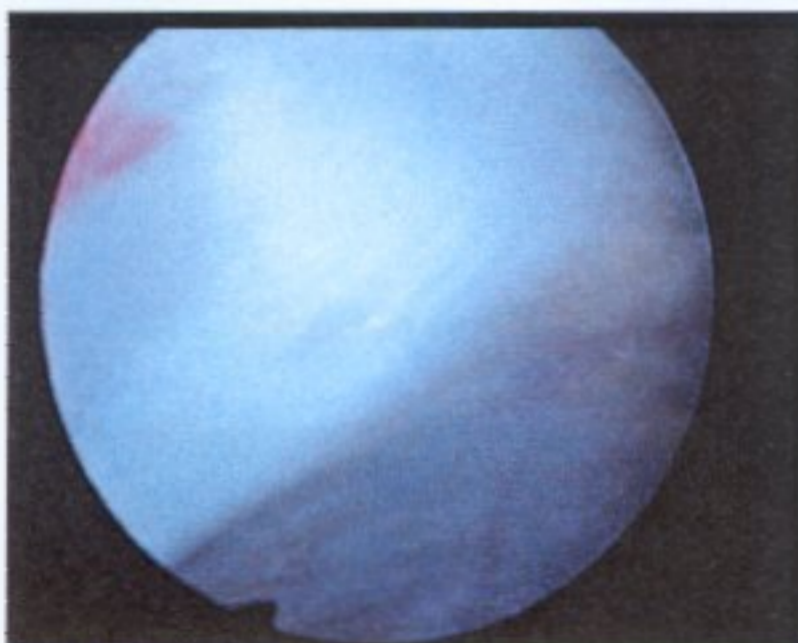
Bursal Side

B0 Normal
B1 Minor scuffing, haemorrhage or local injection
B2 Major scuffing of cuff, partial thickness tear
B3 Full thickness tear
B4 Massive cuff tear

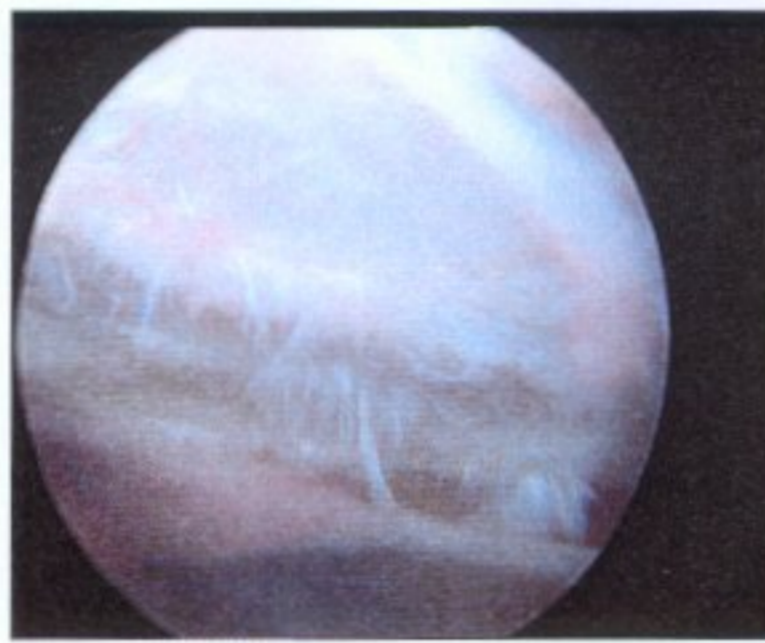
These lesions are demonstrated with the following illustrations:

Acromial Side

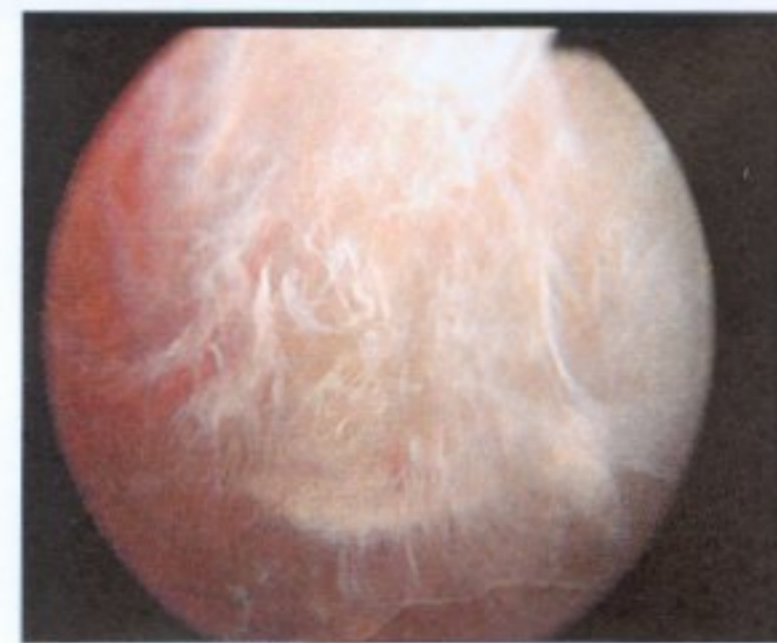
A0 Normal



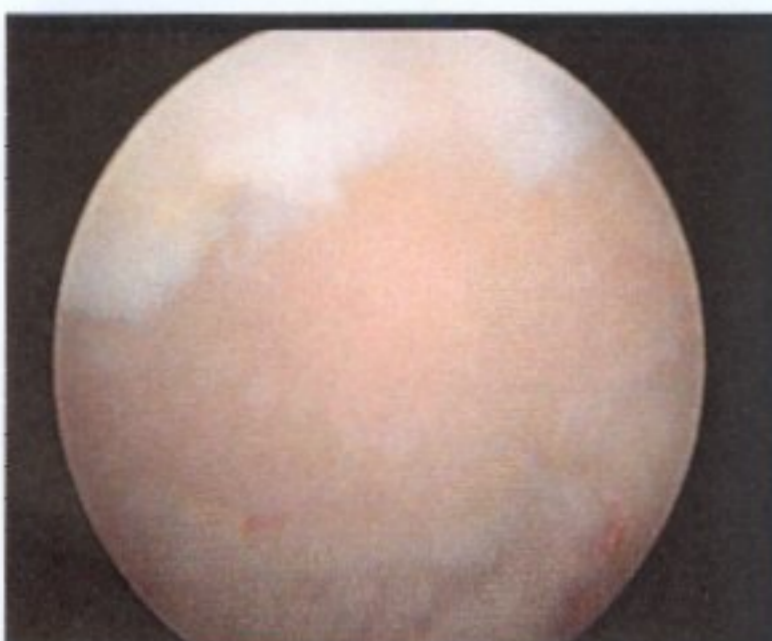
A1 Minor Scuffing



A2 Marked Damage

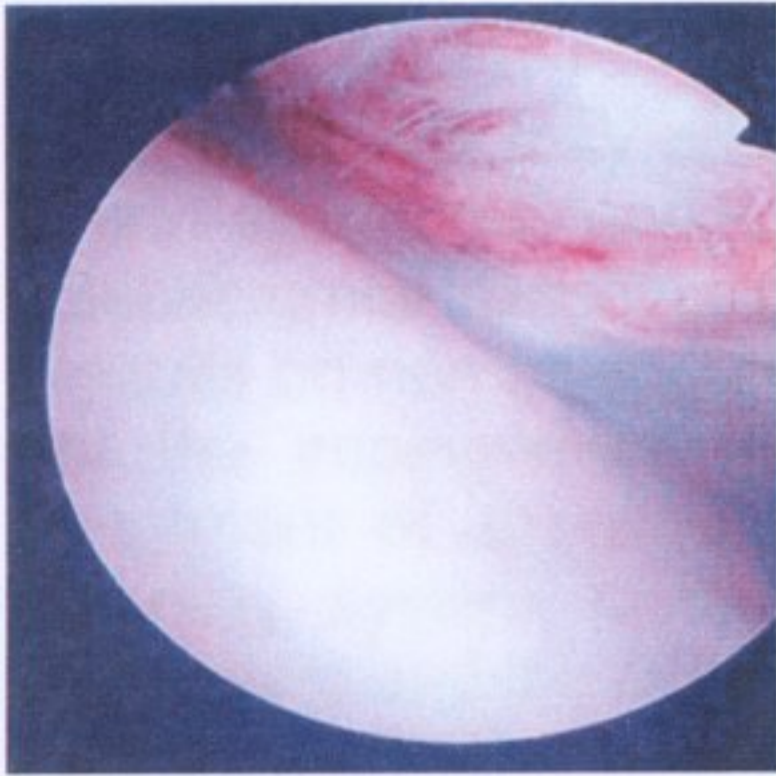


A3 Bare Bone Areas

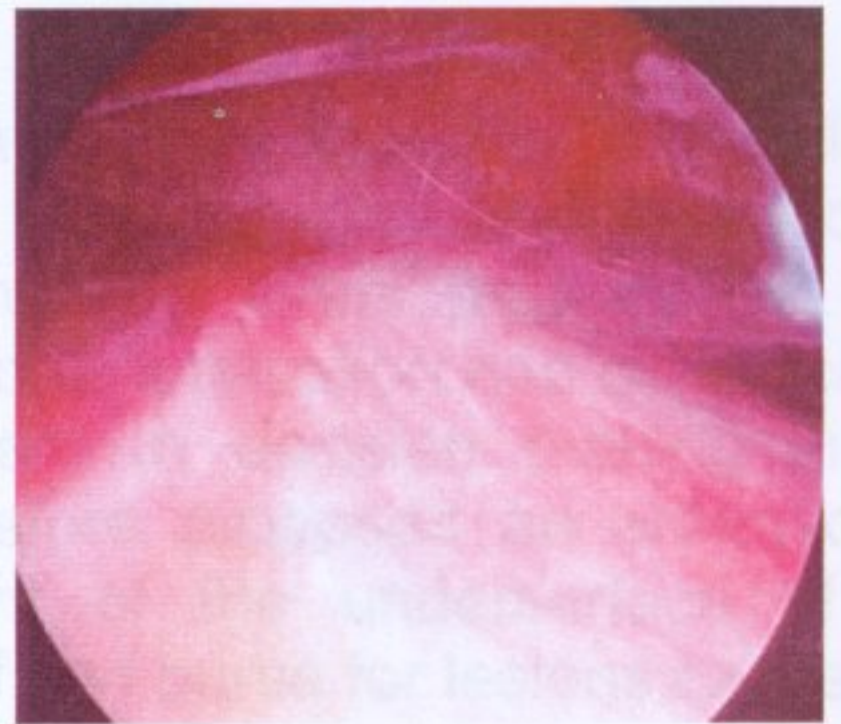


Bursal Side

B0 Normal

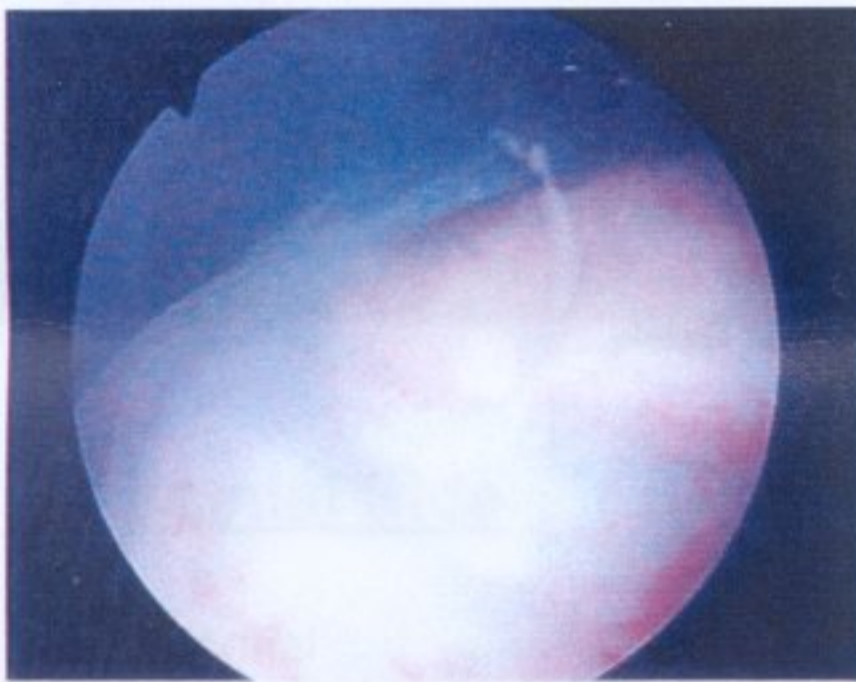


B1 Minor scuffing, haemorrhage or local injection

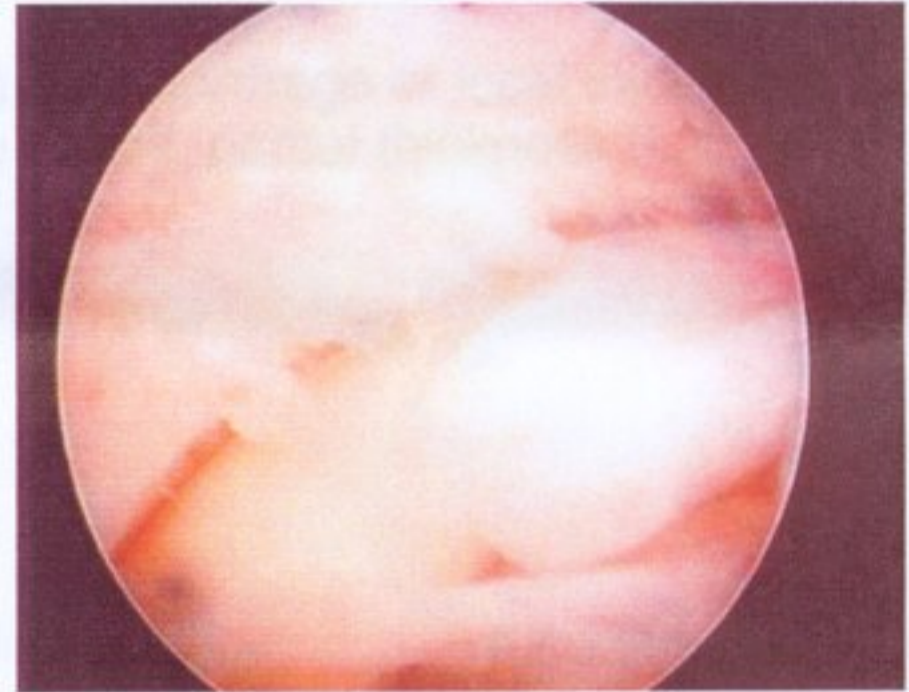


Pathological Classification of the Impingement Lesion

B2 Major scuffing of cuff, partial thickness tear



B3 Full thickness tear



B4 Massive cuff tear

