

DISCOID MENISCUS

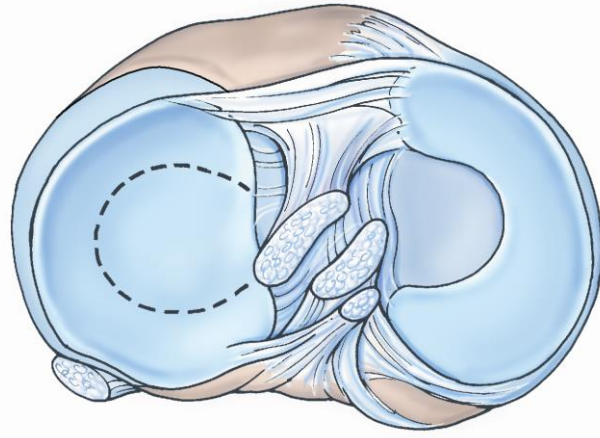
There are two cartilages within the knee. Each of these is called a meniscus and has a "crescent moon" appearance. In 1 out of 1000 children, the outside meniscus does not form properly and has the appearance of a "thick silver dollar".



This congenital abnormality is called a discoid meniscus.

The abnormal meniscus is present in the child's knee at birth but may not cause symptoms until much later, any time from preschool age to adulthood. Repeated episodes of clicking, popping, swelling, limping, or decreased motion of the knee may occur with a discoid meniscus. An MRI will help to diagnose this abnormality.

Treatment with a knee support and anti-inflammatory drugs may help in certain cases. If your child is unable to fully straighten the knee, walks with a bent or stiff knee, or experiences pain or swelling, then arthroscopic surgery may be necessary.



With arthroscopic surgery the misshaped meniscus is sculpted to a more normal shape. If the discoid meniscus is torn, the tear will be removed or repaired.



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