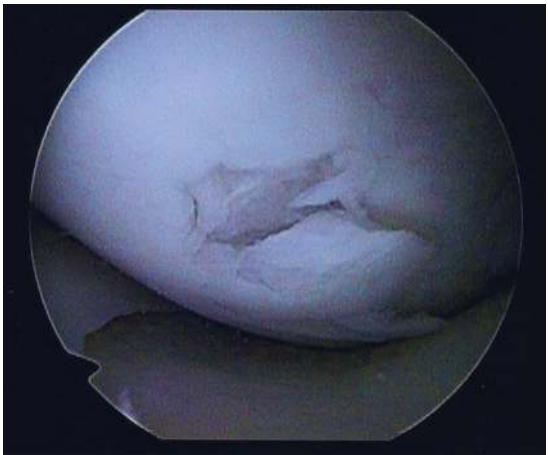
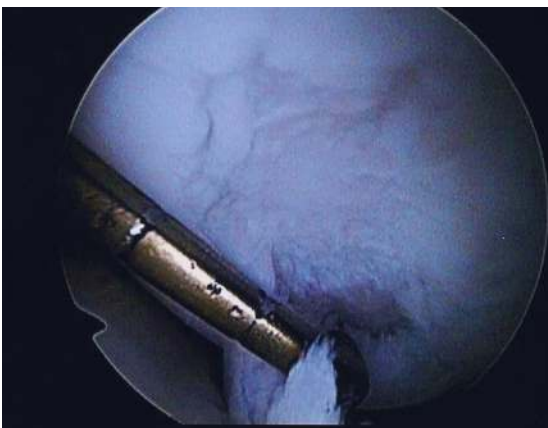




After Dr. Romero released & shortened tendons, Renee's kneecap returned to its correct alignment. This before picture shows the cartilage underneath the patella as being a bit shredded. During surgery, the damaged cartilage was shaved - Returning the surface to normal.



Upon thorough examination of the knee joint, Dr. Romero found a significant problem with the cartilage lining the bottom of her femur. Neither the x-rays nor MRI indicated any such injury.



This photo shows where the cartilage is totally missing. That's bare bone (Renee's femur, actually) - and that's part of why it was painful.



This is photo of the femur after the Microfracture procedure. The tiny fractures will seep blood and bone marrow (which contains stem cells), creating a blood clot that releases cartilage-building cells.