A.L.P.S.® Clavicle Plating System

Frequently Asked Questions

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If I'm short on screws in my A.L.P.S. Clavicle screw caddy, can I use A.L.P.S. Small Frag screws or DVR® Crosslock screws?

The A.L.P.S. Clavicle Plating System shares the same 3.5 mm Locking screws (8161-35-0XX) as the A.L.P.S. Small Fragment system. However, all other 3.5 mm screws in the A.L.P.S. Clavicle System are contained in the A.L.P.S. Proximal Humerus System.

Note: The MDS and the non-locking screws measuring 10 mm thru 18 mm, are only available in the A.L.P.S. Clavicle System.

The 2.7 mm screws in the A.L.P.S. Clavicle Plating System are the same as those in the DVR Crosslock.

Note: The A.L.P.S. Clavicle System does not include locking screws greater than 18 mm in length due to the fact that those screws do not have cutting flutes.

Can the plate be contoured in-situ?

The distal superior nodes and F.A.S.T. Tabs® may be contoured in-situ using F.A.S.T. Grip™ Instruments but it is recommended that contouring of the plate shaft be done ex-situ with the plate benders for ease.

Can the surgeon break off F.A.S.T. Tabs in-situ?

F.A.S.T. Tabs should always be removed prior to implant insertion to ensure sharp edges are facing the bone resulting in minimal soft tissue irritation.

Can both nodes and tabs be broken?

Only F.A.S.T. Tabs may be broken. Nodes (on the distal superior plate) are NOT designed to be broken.

Will the plate accommodate a suture button for coraco-clavicular fixation?

Currently we do not have a suture button designed for this system to accommodate sutures through the plate, but the plates are designed with atraumatic edges so that sutures can be applied around the plate.

Why do we have short drills and a Crego Elevator?

Both the 2.7 mm and the 3.5 mm screw families include a short drill to accompany the regular length drills. The short drills are designed to have a hard stop when used in conjunction with the Soft Tissue Guides or the F.A.S.T. Grip instruments in order to limit the drill depth.

Additionally, the Crego Elevator may be placed on the far cortex to protect the soft tissue from the drill tip as it penetrates the bone.

Can the tabs be bent too far that they break unintentionally?

Yes! Caution must be exercised when bending the F.A.S.T. Tabs and nodes to ensure they're not unintentionally broken. The F.A.S.T. Tabs and nodes may be bent up to a maximum of 30°. Remember, the nodes on the distal superior plate are not designed to be broken.

Can the MIPO approach be used with all the plates?

No. The MIPO approach can only be used with the anterior plates.

How much can each plate be bent?

Do not bend plates more than 30° in any plane.

Can I use the F.A.S.T. Grip Instruments to bend the shaft of the plate?

No! The F.A.S.T. Grip Instruments are NOT designed to bend the shaft of the plate. All shaft bending must be done using the plate benders. The F.A.S.T. Grip Instruments are designed to bend only the F.A.S.T. Tabs, the distal superior nodes and around the dog bone features.

Can locking screws be used in non-locking holes?

No! Locking screws or MDS screws are not designed to be used in the oblong slots. However, non-locking screws may be used in locking hole positions.

Can all of the screws in the system be installed using power?

No! The 2.7 mm screws should only be installed manually. In addition, all final tightening of the 3.5 mm screws should be done by hand.

What's the purpose of the 'dog bone' feature in the plate?

These features provide a bending relief point in the plate to facilitate contouring. In addition they can accommodate forceps or K-Wires for provisional fixation.

Why don't the plates have F.A.S.T. Guide® Inserts like other A.L.P.S. Systems?

Due to the varying nature of the exposures (transverse, necklace and MIPO) used in clavicle plating, it was more practical to design the plates without F.A.S.T. Guide Inserts to facilitate plate insertion.

Can 3.5 mm instruments be used with the narrow width plates?

No. The 3.5 mm instruments (color-coded gold) are designed to be used exclusively with the standard width plates while the 2.7 mm instruments (color-coded silver) are designed to be used exclusively with narrow width plates.

What should surgeons know when deciding whether to use a narrow or a standard plate?

Some surgeons might feel more comfortable using the narrow plates on smaller patients. Both narrow and standard width plates were designed using a bone database for fit, so the surgeon can have the same level of confidence regarding plate fit for both narrow and standard plates.

Can the A.L.P.S. Clavicle Plate Benders be used for plate shortening as well?

No. The A.L.P.S. Clavicle Plate Benders are designed for contouring of the shaft of the plate.

What's the difference in length between the Short drills and the regular drills?

	Long	Short
2.2 mm Drill	135 mm	116.4 mm
2.7 mm Drill	135 mm	117.4 mm

Notes

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