

Patient satisfaction and function after bilateral ankle arthrodeses

Philip Vaughan, David Gordon, Andy Goldberg, Nick Cullen, Dishan Singh
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, United Kingdom

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Philip Vaughan

My disclosure is in the
Final AOFAS Mobile App.

I have no potential conflicts with
this presentation.

Background

- Ankle arthrodesis remains the gold standard for treating patients with refractory unilateral ankle arthritis.
- The optimum way to manage patients with bilateral ankle arthritis remains unclear.
- The evidence for the outcome of bilateral ankle arthrodesis is limited to a few series including those with unilateral and bilateral disease (1,2).

Aim

- The purpose of this study is to report the midterm satisfaction and functional outcome of a series of patients who have undergone staged, bilateral ankle arthrodesis.



Methods

- A retrospective review was performed of all patients who had undergone bilateral, staged open ankle arthrodesis at our institution over a 10 year period.

Exclusion criteria

- Patients with an underlying neuromuscular disorder and those who underwent a primary tibi-talo-calcaneal fusion were excluded.

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Outcome measures

- Patient satisfaction measured on a five point Likert scale.
- Function was measured by the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) hindfoot score.
- Time to union/ Union rate.
- Infection
- Development of subsequent symptomatic adjacent joint arthritis.

Results

- We included 8 patients (6M: 2F)
- Median age 68.5 yrs (range 59-80)
- Median follow-up was 58.5 months (range 24-100, 95% CI 49.1 to 70.1)
- There were no wound infections
- All 16 fusions united in a mean time of 12.8 weeks (range 10-19).

Results

- The median AOFAS hindfoot score was 79.5 (range 71-90, 95% CI 75.4- 85.6)
- Six patients (75%) were very satisfied after their second arthrodesis , one was satisfied, and the other neither satisfied nor dissatisfied about the outcome.
- Two patients subsequently developed symptomatic subtalar arthritis on their first side, diagnosed at 39 and 89 months post-operatively.

Conclusions

- We believe this to be the first report focusing solely on the mid-term outcome of a series of bilateral ankle arthrodeses.
- We highlight that 87.5 % of patients are either satisfied or very satisfied with their outcome following bilateral ankle arthrodesis .
- Our results also highlight that functional outcome after bilateral ankle arthrodesis is comparable to that for bilateral total ankle replacement (3).

References

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