Annual meeting of the Swiss Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology

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Effect of muscle weakness and joint inflammation on the onset and progression of osteoarthritis in the rabbit knee

Christian Egnolf1, Andrew Sawatsky2, Victor Valderrabano3, Walter Herzog4

1Universitätsspital Basel, 2University of Calgary

Introduction: Biomechanical disturbances and joint inflammation are known risk factors for OA, which may provoke or advance osteoarthritic (OA) progression. However, the effect of interactions of such risk factors on the onset and progression of OA are still poorly understood. Therefore, the goal of this study was to investigate the in vivo effects of muscle weakness, joint inflammation, and the combination of two of these risk factors, on the onset and progression of OA in the rabbit knee.

Methods: Thirty 1-year-old skeletally mature female New Zealand White rabbits were used in this study. The animals were divided into four experimental groups: (i) surgical transection of the nerve branch of the common femoral nerve leading to the vastus lateralis (VL) muscle; (ii) muscle weakness of the quadriceps muscles induced by a chronic intramuscular injection of Botulinum toxin A (BTA-A); (iii) intraarticular injection in the experimental knee joint with sterile Carrageenan solution (CA) to induce a transient severe inflammatory reaction; (iv) administration of both intraarticular injection of CA and intramuscular injection of BTA-A. In each animal, one hind limb was randomly assigned to the experimental intervention, while the contralateral side acted as its own control. Ninety days following intervention, cartilage histology of the femoral groove, tibia and patella were assessed and microscopically analyzed using the OARSI histology score.

Results: A transient assessment of the cartilage showed that weakness of the VL resulted in significantly higher OARSI scores in the patella and femoral groove, but not the tibiofemoral articulation. The administration of BTA-A resulted in significant cartilage damage in all four compartments of the knee (patella, femur, tibia, femoral groove). Intraarticular injection of CA did not result in significant cartilage damage in any compartment compared to those of the contralateral knee. The combination of BTA-A and CA resulted in severe cartilage damage in all four compartments. The most severe damage was detected on the medial side of the tibiofemoral joint and the lateral side of the patellofemoral joint.

Conclusion: A transient local inflammatory stimulus alone did not promote cartilage degradation, nor did it overly enhance cartilage degeneration when it was combined with muscle weakness. This result is surprising and adds to the literature the idea that severe but transient inflammation alone may not be an independent risk factor for OA.

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN ACL GRAFT STRAIN AND GRAFT TUNNEL INCORPORATION: AN EXPERIENCE WITH A SMALL ANIMAL ACL RECONSTRUCTION MODEL

Richard Ma, Michael Schär, Marco Sisto, Tina Chen, Clifford Voigt, Lilly Ying, Xiang-Hua Deng, Scott Rodeo

Hospital for Special Surgery, New York City

Introduction: There has been increasing focus on “anatomic” ACL reconstruction to reestablish the ACL femoral footprint. There is evidence that these ACL grafts experience higher in situ forces relative to transtibial ACL grafts. There has been increasing focus on “anatomic” ACL reconstruction to reestablish the ACL femoral footprint. There is evidence that these ACL grafts experience higher in situ forces relative to transtibial ACL grafts. A recent study reported differences in terms of revision rates between anteromedial and transtibial grafts, which raises the possibility that different in situ ACL forces. Compared to isometric grafts, ACL grafts that experienced high graft forces had a lower graft pull-out force at both time points in our study. Our results provide some preclinical evidence that higher graft strain may impair graft healing. This data has implications for postoperative rehabilitation, and suggests that traditional ACL rehabilitation regimens may need to be modified when using ACL reconstruction techniques that place higher in situ forces on the ACL graft.

Conclusion: Contemporary anatomic ACL reconstructions may result in improved rotatory knee stability at the expense of higher in situ graft forces. Compared to isometric grafts, ACL grafts that experienced high graft forces had a lower graft pull-out force at both time points in our study. Our results provide some preclinical evidence that higher graft strain may impair graft healing. This data has implications for postoperative rehabilitation, and suggests that traditional ACL rehabilitation regimens may need to be modified when using ACL reconstruction techniques that place higher in situ forces on the ACL graft.

Canine Nucleus Pulposus Cells From Apoptosis by Inhibition of Activated Caspases -9, and -3/7

Ame Mehrkens1, Sarah Kim2, Muhammad Zia Karin3, Stefan Schraen1, Michael G. Fehlings2, W. Mark Erwin4

1Orthopaedische Universitätsklinik - Wirbelsäulenchirurgie, Universitätsspital Basel, Schweiz, 2Toronto Western Research Institute, University of Toronto, Canada

Introduction: Effective therapies that may stop or even reverse disc degeneration remain elusive. A minimally invasive method through which nucleus pulposus cell viability might be achieved would revolutionize the treatment of degenerative disc disease.

Methods: We developed an in vitro and in vivo model of disc degeneration using canine disc-derived NCCM and CDCM from hyopic culture of freshly isolated NPs from NCD and CD canines respectively. We believe that the simple addition to current prophylactic measures might lead to a more effective prevention of HO in the future.

Results: Mean bone volume in the control group was 2.276 mm3 and 0.271 mm3 in the HES group respectively. A Mann-Whitney U Test showed a highly significant difference within rank distribution with a benefit for the treatment group compared to the control group (p = 0.005).

Discussion: We found a substantial reduction of HO formation following administration of HES. We believe that this simple addition to current prophylactic measures might lead to a more effective prevention of HO in the future.

Conclusion: Contemporary anatomic ACL reconstructions may result in improved rotatory knee stability at the expense of higher in situ graft forces. Compared to isometric grafts, ACL grafts that experienced high graft forces had a lower graft pull-out force at both time points in our study. Our results provide some preclinical evidence that higher graft strain may impair graft healing. This data has implications for postoperative rehabilitation, and suggests that traditional ACL rehabilitation regimens may need to be modified when using ACL reconstruction techniques that place higher in situ forces on the ACL graft.
bovine serum. We then determined the expression of specific apoptotic pathways in the murine and human NP cells by recording activated caspase-8, and -9 and -3/7 activity.

**Results:** murine- In the murine NP cells, NCCM inhibits IL-1+Tfasl- and Etoposide- mediated apoptosis via suppression of activated caspase-9 and caspase-3/7, CDCM demonstrated an inhibitory effect on IL-1+Tfasl-mediated apoptosis (fig. 1-A) in human- In the human NP cells, NCCM inhibits Etoposide- mediated apoptosis via suppression of activated caspase-8, caspase-9 and mainly caspase-3/7, though not as effective as NCCM (fig. 1-B).

**Conclusion:** Soluble factors secreted by the NCD IVD NP strongly protect murine and human NP cells from induced apoptosis via suppression of activated Caspase -9 and -3/-7.
A better understanding and harnessing of the restorative powers of the notochordal cell could lead to novel cellular and molecular strategies for the treatment of DDD.

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**In Vitro study of new combinations for local antibiotic therapy with calcium sulphate – Near-constant release of Ceftriaxone offers new treatment options**

Karolín Rönn1, Peter Wahl2, Marc Bohmer1, Laurent Decosterd1, Sandrine Festa1, Emanuel Gautier1

1CHUV, 2EPFL Lausanne

**Introduction:** Antibiotics are commonly applied locally in order to treat bone and joint infections. It allows getting around poor penetration of systemically administered antibiotics, reduces toxicity risks to distant organs and supports the management of dead space left by debridement. However, there lacks a wide antibacterial spectrum and additional operations are needed to remove the carrier material. A larger choice of antibiotics, optimization of release kinetics, and resorbable carrier would be welcome. Calcium sulphate (CaSO4) as a resorbable carrier provides new possibilities of most antibiotic treatments administered for bone infections and it provides a dissolution time that only slightly exceeds the duration of most antibiotic treatments administered for bone infections and it appears to have a depot-like slow release from calcium sulphate, with particular interest in combination with this carrier material. Not only does it persist at clinically promising concentrations, but also it appears to have a depot-like slow release from calcium sulphate, with only a small reduction in activity and concentration over 6 weeks.

**Results:** While piperacillin-tazobactam, ceftazidime, cefepime, and flucloxacillin and cefuroxime remained present in relevant antibacterial activity of various antibiotics in combination with CaSO4 pellets were manufactured using alpha-hemihydrate, antibiotic powder added to 4% weight, and demineralised water. Excess water was removed by drying in a dessicator. Elution of the antibiotics from these pellets was examined at various time points for up to 6 weeks at 37 °C, once in PBS, and once in bovine plasma. The elution fluid was exchanged daily. Antibiotic concentration was measured by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry from samples stored at ~80 °C. Antimicrobial activity was double-checked with a classical agar diffusion test, using either S. aureus ATCC 25922 or E. coli ATCC 35218 depending on the antibiotic examined.

**Results:** The hpASCs group demonstrated a significantly higher load-to-failure at 2-weeks following injection when compared to the control group (77.0 ± 10.5 N versus 58.9 ± 12.0 N, p = 0.012). They also had a higher mean load-to-failure (83.7 ± 21.7 N versus 78.2 ± 21.7 N) and stiffness (31.4 ± 6.1 N/mm versus 27.9 ± 6.6 N/mm) at 4-weeks, but this did not reach statistical difference when compared to the control group.

**Conclusions:** HpaSCs may affect tendon healing by altering the levels of inflammatory cytokines following injury, including elevated levels of IL-1β and IL-6.

**Materials & Methods:** Female Wistar rats were ovarioectomized to induce bone loss. 4 weeks later we implant a miniature screw with a bone plug in each femoral condyle. Several treatment groups, differing only by the components of the bone plugs are established. Micro-CT scans evaluate the bone density and confirm the bone loss induced by the ovarioectomy. Micro-CT scans realized after the screw implantation evaluate the bone remodelling around the implanted screws. The images obtained are used for a dynamic histomorphometry analysis, a new technique based on the comparison of micro-CT images taken at different time points. After two months the animals are sacrificed, the femurs are dedicated either for histology or mechanical pull-out tests.

**Preliminary results:** The bone resorption process is probably not stabilized 4 weeks after the ovarioectomy, as the micro-CT scans show that all the rats continue loosing bone mass. However, in the Zoledronate group the situation stabilizes. The plugs with Zoledronate express a much more sustained osteoinductive effect in the so far analyzed images.

**Discussion:** So far nobody investigated more in detail the mechanism of action of locally administered Zoledronate, an information that is essential to optimize the delivery mode as well as the concentration of Zoledronate to be administered. Dynamic histomorphometry enable us to identify bone resorption and bone formation sites and evaluate the bone remodelling triggered by local Zoledronate release. With this technique, we hope to learn more about how bone formation/ resorption is triggered by Zoledronate, a knowledge that is crucial to better understand how locally delivered Zoledronate can improve implant fixation.

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**Influence of locally delivered Zoledronate on the bone quality around screws in an osteoporotic rat model**

Eric Thein1, Ulrike Kettenberger2, Dominique Pioletti2

1CHUV, 2EPFL Lausanne

**Introduction:** Due to bone density decline, cell-based approaches are emerging as a method to improve healing. There is evidence that placental and amnion-derived cells may have applications for healing of musculoskeletal tissues. Cells from these tissues have anti-inflammatory properties, and they are an attractive allogenic source of cells because of their relative lack of immunogenicity and availability. Our research objective was to evaluate if the use of human placental-derived adherent stromal cells (hpASCs) can augment tendon healing in a preclinical model of tendon injury.

**Methods:** Sixty Male Sprague-Dawley rats underwent collagenase-induced patellar tendon injury in both limbs. Six days later, tendons were randomly assigned to receive either an injection of hASCs (2.0 x 10^6 cells) or saline. Carboxyfluorescein diacetate succinimidy (CFSE) labeling of the placental-derived ASCs for cell viability and RT-PCR for gene expression analysis were performed at 7, 14, and 28 days after injection. Tendon healing was assessed with biomechanical and histological analyses at 1, 2, and 4 weeks.

**Results:** CFSE-labeled hASCs were still viable 4 weeks following injection. The hpASCs group demonstrated a significantly higher load-to-failure at 2-weeks following injection when compared to the control group (77.0 ± 10.5 N versus 58.9 ± 12.0 N, p = 0.012). They also had a higher mean load-to-failure (83.7 ± 21.7 N versus 78.2 ± 21.7 N) and stiffness (31.4 ± 6.1 N/mm versus 27.9 ± 6.6 N/mm) at 4-weeks, but this did not reach statistical difference when compared to the control group.

**Conclusions:** HpaSCs demonstrated the potential to improve the tendon healing response following injury in this preclinical model of tendinopathy. Tendons treated with hASCs had improved early biomechanical properties as well as tissue histological appearance following collagenase-induced injury. They warrant further clinical investigation as a potential treatment option for tendon injuries.
Bone formation after implantation of composite grafts with non-expanded adipose tissue derived human vascular fraction cells at an orthotopic implantation site

Franziska Saxer1, Sinan Güven1, Laurent Tchang1, Franziska Saxer1, Sinan Güven1, Laurent Tchang1, Marcel Jakob1, Thomas Hügle1, Jeroen Geurts1

The osteogenic potential of human adipose stromal vascular fraction (SVF), a heterogenous cell population comprising i.a. mesenchymal and endothelial progenitors was demonstrated ectopically after addition of a low dose of osteoinductive growth factor (GF). The present study tests the hypothesis that at an orthotopic site the secretion of GFs after a bone lesion will suffice to induce differentiation in the implanted cells. SVF cells were isolated from adipose tissue via enzymatic digestion and density gradient isolation. A fibrin gel was then used to cellularize a porous granulated hydroxyapatite carrier. Following animal protection laws ("KVeT Basel-Stadt; permission no. 2357") unilateral critical size defects were created in the femora of 18 adult male athymic rats (Crl:Nih-Foxn1Mu, Charles River, Germany). In 12 rats (treatment group, cells of 6 donors) cellularized grafts were implanted before angular stable plate fixation with the FlatFix system (RiSSystem AG, Switzerland). In 6 control animals equivalent cell free grafts were used. After 8 weeks in viva femora were taken for histologic and biomechanical analysis. Cells were additionally analysed according to their adipogenic potential. SVF cells-loaded constructs led reproducibly to stability of the osteogenesis, in 4 instances bridging the defect. In 2 cases biomechanical stability similar to those of untreated femora was reached. Histology revealed evidence of bone formation and vascular structures of human origin from 4/6 donors. Implantation of cell free constructs consistently led to pseudoarthrosis and failure of the osteogenesis without evidence of bone formation, vascularity or the possibility of biomechanical testing. Analysis of surface markers for mesenchymal, endothelial and hematopoietic markers showed a rather homogenous pattern of distribution through without relation to the performance of the respective grafts. The present study demonstrates that non-expanded SVF cells from human adipose tissue, processed and implanted using a technique compatible with an intra-operative one-step approach, can enhance fracture healing through direct contribution of the osteoblastic and endothelial cell components. The addition of external growth factors does not seem necessary for the induction of differentiation at the orthotopic site. Although no markers predictive of graft performance were identified, the study paves the way for a translation of the approach into a clinical trial.

Flow cytometry-based cellular phenotyping of the osteoarthritic facet joint

Benjamin Pippenger1, Ralph Dühr1, Manuele Muraro3, Franziska Saxer1, Sinan Güven1, Laurent Tchang1, Marcel Jakob1, Thomas Hügle1, Jeroen Geurts1

The osteoarthritic facet joint is predominantly affected by osteoarthritis (OA) disease progression. As the cellular component to phenotypically characterize and isolate cells from a variety of soft tissues is difficult. Advanced flow cytometry (FACS) techniques have been used to isolate and characterize cells from intraarticular penetrations or transsection of the posterior column.

Methods: Tibial plateaue were obtained from OA patients undergoing total knee replacement surgery. Plateaues were divided into sclerotic and non-sclerotic sides, stripped down to the subchondral and underlying marrow space (subchondral bone unit) and processed for rapid collagenase digestion (4 hours). Digest medium was then isolated from the remaining undigested bone fragments and directly immunostained for cellular surface markers enabling the identification of specific cell populations.

Results: Degradation of the plateau type (sclerotic versus non-sclerotic), 18% of the total particles detected by FACS in the digest medium were identified as being nucleated cells through detection of DAPI staining. The following populations were able to be reliably identified based on their specific markers: osteoblasts (CD90+/CD105+/CD146+), osteoclast progenitors (CD45+/CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+), macrophages (CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+/CD14+/CD68+) and monocytes (CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+/CD14+/CD68+). Directly comparing percentages of cells derived from sclerotic versus non-sclerotic regions, the following increases for sclerotic-derived cells were found: phagocytic macrophages (60% more), Osteoblasts (14% more), osteoclast progenitors (6% more).

Conclusions: The subchondral bone units of opposing tibial plates from the same osteoarthritic joint harbor phenotypically different populations of cells, as demonstrated by direct FACS analysis of digested bone. Therefore, this study presents for the first time immune-phenotyping of native cells from bone directly after tissue extraction. This proof-of-principle paves the way for direct cell isolation and characterization of specific cell populations active in bone-based diseases.

Periacetabular Osteotomy Performed Through the Pararectus Approach – A Cadaveric Feasibility Study

Timo Michael Ecker1, Johannes Dominik Bastian1, Marius Johann Baptst Keef2, Li Liu1, Haefeli Pascale3, Montiz Tanass4, Klaus Arno Siebenrock5

Introduction: The common goal of all surgical approaches for periacetabular osteotomy (PAO) is to provide accurate and adequate exposure for the osteotomies and the reorientation of the acetabulum and at the same time minimize morbidity. While the Pararectus approach had initially been developed for anterior hip arthroplasty, management of acetabular fractures, the purpose of this study was to assess feasibility and safety of this approach for performance of PAO. We present a case for fragmentation and healing potential to a modified Smith-Petersen approach and investigate possibilities for fragment fixation.

Material and Methods: Preoperative CT scans of four cadaver pelves were obtained and three-dimensional models were reconstructed. In a supine position, four Smith-Petersen and four Pararectus approaches were established. Dynamic reference bases were affixed to the pelvis and the acetabulum and the anterior pelvic plane was digitized. The osteotomies were performed either according to the traditional technique or in an inside-out technique for the Pararectus approach. An experimental navigation system was used to assess acetabular version and inclination and to track movement of the acetabular fragment. One single examine reoriented the acetabulum to a maximum in four degrees of freedom: extension, internal rotation, external rotation and medialization.

Results: The inside-out osteotomies were achieved without intraarticular penetrations or transsection of the posterior column. The median values Pararectus versus Smith Petersen were: extension 21° (range 13 to 27) versus 20° (14 to 32), internal rotation 10° (range 10 to 29) versus 11° (8 to 22), external rotation 33° (range 20 to 37) versus 25° (11 to 44), medialization 12 mm (range 8 to 26) versus 10 mm (8 to 26). Screw fixation through the Pararectus approach was achieved safely in all pelves with one screw into the posterior column, one into the supracaetabular bone stock and another through the superior pubic ramus.

Discussion: Performance of PAO through the Pararectus approach is feasible, allowing for safe extraarticular osteotomies. Management of the acetabular fragment from inside the pelvis yields fragment mobility equal to that of the conventional technique and permits rigid screw fixation. One limitation is the impossibility for anterior hip arthroplasty in cases of concomitant cam impingement.

FACET JOINT OSTEARTHRITIS IN LUMBAR SPINAL STENOSIS: HISTOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF CELLULAR PATHOMECHANISMS

Cordula Netzer, Karin Urech, Thomas Hügle, Anna Hirschmann, Victor Valderrabano, Robyn Benz, Jeroen Geurts, Stefan Schären Universitätsspital Basel

Introduction: Lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS) is a degenerative, age-related narrowing of the lower spinal canal that causes pressure on the nerves, leading to pain and reduced mobility. Osteoarthritic changes to the facet joint are commonly detected using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). However, the pathomechanisms of facet joint osteoarthritis (OA) at a cellular and molecular level are poorly understood and have been scarcely studied. In this study we sought to investigate the histological features and to uncover cellular pathomechanisms of facet joint OA.

Methods: Fifteen patients undergoing surgical decompression due to degenerative LSS were included in this study. Severity of facet joint OA was assessed in MRI images using the Weishaupt grading system. Tissue morphology was evaluated using histology. The presence of macrophages, blood vessels and nerve fibers was investigated using immunohistological staining for their respective markers CD68, CD34 and PGP9.5. Functional osteoclasts were visualized using tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) staining.

Results: Degradation of the plateau type (sclerotic versus non-sclerotic), 18% of the total particles detected by FACS in the digest medium were identified as being nucleated cells through detection of DAPI staining. The following populations were able to be reliably identified based on their specific markers: osteoblasts (CD90+/CD105+/CD146+), osteoclast progenitors (CD45+/CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+), macrophages (CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+/CD14+/CD68+) and monocytes (CD11b+/HLA-DR+/CD115+/CD14+/CD68+). Directly comparing percentages of cells derived from sclerotic versus non-sclerotic osteoarthritic joint harbor phenotypically different populations of cells, as demonstrated by direct FACS analysis of digested bone. Therefore, this study presents for the first time immune-phenotyping of native cells from bone directly after tissue extraction. This proof-of-principle paves the way for direct cell isolation and characterization of specific cell populations active in bone-based diseases.
**Results:** OA was evident in MRI images as evidenced by joint space narrowing, bone edema and cysts and hypertrophy of articular processes. The severe OA phenotype in facet joints from LSS patients was confirmed at a histological level by complete loss of proteoglycan staining, CD34+ vessel penetration, and fissuring of cartilage tissue. In all samples, subchondral marrow spaces contained CD34+ blood vessels and CD68+ mononuclear macrophages. CD68+ multinucleated osteoclasts were detected in resorption pits at the bone surface in 80 percent of the patients. Functionality of osteoclasts was confirmed by positive staining of multinucleated bone cells for TRAP in serial sections. Osteoclast activity was demonstrated in 60 percent of the patients and predominantly characterized by large areas of intramembranous bone formation near the osteochondral junction. Involvement of the subchondral bone by PGPs95-positive nerve fibers was scarce and exclusively found near articularis.

**Conclusion:** Facet joints in LSS patients display radiological and histological features of OA. Two major OA phenotypes can be distinguished based upon certain pathomechanisms in subchondral bone tissue: 1) osteoblast-rich intramembranous bone formation and 2) osteoclast/macrophage rich remodeling. Imaging modalities using bone-seeking radiotracers (i.e., SPECT/CT) might enable differential diagnosis of facet joint OA subtypes.

**Arthroscopic Suture Retrievers and Suture Shuttles: The Force Required for Tendon Penetration and Residual Defect Size**

Christopher Lenz1, Karl Wieser1, Lajati Georg1, Dominik C. Meyer1

1Department of Orthopaedics, Balgrist University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland, 2Orthopaedic Department, Private Hospital Maria Hill, Klagenfurt, Austria

**Introduction:** Numerous instruments and tools for arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder have been designed by different manufactures to improve efficacy and expand the indications for reconstructive arthroscopic surgery. These instruments play an essential role in the success of surgeries and their corresponding clinical outcomes. Based on our observation that certain instruments require higher forces for tendon penetration leading to considerable defects within the tendon or lbral complex, we conducted this biomechanical investigation. We also determined the size and pattern of the lesions that are generated due to concerns about iatrogenically provoked tendon substance failure. Instruments were categorized as straight and angled sutures retrievers (n = 12) or suture shuttles (n = 9).

**Materials and methods:** Twenty-one instruments were tested ten times each in thawed sheep infraspinatus tendons. The force applied to pierce the tendon was measured using a specifically designed measurement setup. Bone wax plates were used to image perforation marks and to quantify the lesions each instrument created.

**Results:** Force measurement: The force required to pierce the tendons was from 5.6 N/mm to 18.5 N/mm. The suture shuttles needed a higher force than the suture shuttles (mean ± standard deviation: 9.1 ± 13 versus 7.1 ± 4 N/mm, p <0.05). Within the group of suture retrievers, the straight instruments showed significantly lower force required than the angled instruments (8.7 ± 2.9 versus 13.2 ± 3.9 N/mm, p <0.05). Within the group of suture shuttles, there was no significant difference between the force required for straight and angled instruments (9.4 ± 1.3 versus 10. ± 1.4 N/mm, p >0.05)

**Conclusion:** We found a range of lesion areas from 2 mm to 7 mm. The suture shuttles showed the smallest lesion area (3 mm) and angled suture shuttles showed the largest area (13 mm). The suture shuttles showed significantly larger lesion areas than suture shuttles did. These differences should be considered in the context of the additional features these tools offer, such as allowing the manipulation of sutures in the joint with the suture retriever. Even though the lesions created in the tendon are usually not visible during surgery, the possible damage created may be mechanically and biologically important.

**Materials and methods:** MRI and SPECT/CT images of 63 knees (mean age 49 ± 13 years) were prospectively collected and retrospectively analyzed after approval by the ethical committee. Cartilage lesions were graded in MRI using modified Noyes’ grading scale (0 = intact; 1 = fibrillations; 2 = <50% defect; 3 = >50%; 4 = >3+subchondral changes) and measured in two dimensions. 99mTc-HDP-SPECT/CT bone tracer uptake (BTU) was volumetrically quantified using a validated software (IntraDex, OrtholagingSolutions Ltd., London/UK). Maximum values of each subchondral area (pateleofemoral medial and lateral femorotibial) were quantified and ratio was calculated in relation to a reference region in the femoral shaft, which represented the BTU background activity. Grades of cartilage lesions and BTUs were correlated using independent t-test and ANOVA. A p value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** BTU was low (mean relative uptake of 1.8 ± 1.28) in knees without any cartilage lesion. In knees with grade 3 and 4 cartilage lesions the relative ratio was significantly higher (3.7 ± 2.31; p <0.01) than in knees with grade 0-2 lesions (1.73 ± 1.05). The larger the diameter of the cartilage lesion, the higher the BTU. Lesions larger than 4 cm2 showed a significantly higher BTU than smaller lesions (p <0.01).

**Conclusion:** SPECT/CT significantly correlates with the degree of cartilage lesion in MRI. Grade 3 and 4 cartilage lesions of the knee joint as well as larger lesions (4 cm2) correlate with a high BTU. Using this information the orthopaedic surgeon is now able to choose a chondral or osteochondral repair strategy.
Injection-induced low-grade infection of the shoulder joint: preliminary results

Peter Larsson1, Spross Christian2, Karl Grob2, Christian Acker1, Erlangga Yusuf2, Christophe Tissot3, Arthur Grzesiak3, Andrej Trampuz4, Olivier Borens4

**Background:** Purulent arthritis of the shoulder has been widely reported. Low-grade post-operative infections of the shoulder have also been observed. Low-grade infections of the shoulder without prior surgery have not been reported in the literature. The purpose of this study is to present our experience of 7 patients with low-grade infections of the shoulder without a history of prior surgery.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed 7 patients, mean age of 45 years, that originally presented with diffuse shoulder pain, with or without stiffness. None had prior surgery but all had prior injections, average 5.6, into the shoulder. All patients were treated with various arthroscopic procedures. All had harvesting of 4 tissue probes identifying low-grade infection. Pre/Post-operative pain score, pre/post operative range of motion, intraoperative findings, post-operative Constant score, Subjective Shoulder Value and pre/post operative radiographs were analyzed. Post-operative antibiotic therapy was recorded.

**Results:** All patients showed synovitis without pus or any other sign of infection. Propionibacterium acnes were identified in 5, coagulase-negative Staphylococcus in 2, and Staphylococcus saccharolyticus in 1 shoulder. One patient had a mixed infection (Propionibacterium acnes and coagulase-negative Staphylococcus). Therapy consisted of oral antibiotics for 1 to 6 months. Four patients had a satisfactory and 3 an unsatisfactory outcome.

**Conclusions:** Diffuse shoulder pain with or without stiffness in patients without prior surgical history can be caused by low-grade infection. Treatment using oral antibiotics has unpredictable outcomes. Further studies are necessary to analyze this pathology.

Evaluation of 104 periprosthetic hip joint infections within five consecutive years

**Background:** Periprosthetic hip joint infections (PHJI) are a severe complication following total hip arthroplasty. They are the second most common reason leading to revision surgery of the hip. PHJI results in significant patient morbidity and is an ongoing challenge for the orthopaedic community. Recently more standardised treatment regimens have been introduced. We present the outcome of 103 patients with a PHJI, with a minimum follow-up period of one year, and analyse the treatment regimen applied.

**Materials and Methods:** All patients with a proven PHJI (i.e. positive bacterial culture result in intraoperative tissue specimen) treated in our institution, between January 2008 and December 2012, were enrolled in this study. The information was retrieved from the patient- and microbiological information system, as well as the digital radiological system. An independent investigator retrospectively collected and analysed the data.

**Results:** A total of 104 PHJI met the inclusion criteria. The infections were defined as early (<3 months) in 29%, as delayed (3–24 months) in 36% and as late (>24 months) in 35% of the cases. In 5% we performed a surgical debridement alone, in 18% a debridement with change of the mobile parts, in 20% a one-stage exchange, in 44% a two-stage exchange and in 13% a Girdlestone procedure without reimplantation. Fifty-three percent of the two-stage revisions received a spacer in the interval. The mean interval between explantation and reimplantation was 12.2 weeks. The mean number of revisions after removing the implant was 1.6.

**Conclusion:** Two-stage joint replacement performed early after septic arthritis: first experiences in seven patients

**Background:** Two-stage joint replacement performed early after septic arthritis. They are the second most common type of infection. Propionibacterium acnes were identified in 5, coagulase-negative Staphylococcus in 2, and Staphylococcus saccharolyticus in 1 shoulder. One patient had a mixed infection (Propionibacterium acnes and coagulase-negative Staphylococcus). Therapy consisted of oral antibiotics for 1 to 6 months. Four patients had a satisfactory and 3 an unsatisfactory outcome.

**Conclusions:** Diffuse shoulder pain with or without stiffness in patients without prior surgical history can be caused by low-grade infection. Treatment using oral antibiotics has unpredictable outcomes. Further studies are necessary to analyze this pathology.

Evaluation of 104 periprosthetic hip joint infections within five consecutive years

**Introduction:** Periprosthetic hip joint infections (PHJI) are a severe complication following total hip arthroplasty. They are the second most common reason leading to revision surgery of the hip. PHJI results in significant patient morbidity and is an ongoing challenge for the orthopaedic community. Recently more standardised treatment regimens have been introduced. We present the outcome of 103 patients with a PHJI, with a minimum follow-up period of one year, and analyse the treatment regimen applied.

**Materials and Methods:** All patients with a proven PHJI (i.e. positive bacterial culture result in intraoperative tissue specimen) treated in our institution, between January 2008 and December 2012, were enrolled in this study. The information was retrieved from the patient- and microbiological information system, as well as the digital radiological system. An independent investigator retrospectively collected and analysed the data.

**Results:** A total of 104 PHJI met the inclusion criteria. The infections were defined as early (<3 months) in 29%, as delayed (3–24 months) in 36% and as late (>24 months) in 35% of the cases. In 5% we performed a surgical debridement alone, in 18% a debridement with change of the mobile parts, in 20% a one-stage exchange, in 44% a two-stage exchange and in 13% a Girdlestone procedure without reimplantation. Fifty-three percent of the two-stage revisions received a spacer in the interval. The mean interval between explantation and reimplantation was 12.2 weeks. The mean number of revisions after removing the implant was 1.6.

**Conclusion:** Two-stage joint replacement performed early after septic arthritis: first experiences in seven patients

**Background:** Two-stage joint replacement performed early after septic arthritis. They are the second most common type of infection. Propionibacterium acnes were identified in 5, coagulase-negative Staphylococcus in 2, and Staphylococcus saccharolyticus in 1 shoulder. One patient had a mixed infection (Propionibacterium acnes and coagulase-negative Staphylococcus). Therapy consisted of oral antibiotics for 1 to 6 months. Four patients had a satisfactory and 3 an unsatisfactory outcome.

**Conclusions:** Diffuse shoulder pain with or without stiffness in patients without prior surgical history can be caused by low-grade infection. Treatment using oral antibiotics has unpredictable outcomes. Further studies are necessary to analyze this pathology.

Outcomes of 10 enterococci’s PJIs

**Introduction:** Enterococci spp are considered as difficult-to-treat bacteria. We evaluated the outcome of these types of microorganism.

**Methods:** All the patients hospitalized in CHUV for a PJ1 were included during the period between 1999 to 2012. PJ1 was defined as growth of the same microorganism in ≥2 tissue or synovial fluid culture, viable purulence, sinus tract or acute inflammation on tissue histopathology. Outcome analysis was performed at outpatient visits, followed by contacting patients, their relatives and/or treating physicians afterwards.

**Results:** 10 patients with PJ1 due to enterococci spp were identified, two with total knee arthroplasty and eight with total hip arthroplasty. The median age was 73.5 (range: 69–81); 50% were women. Meidan hospital stay was 83.3 days (14–198) and patient were followed for a mean of 24.41 months (1.3–114). The primary reason of joint replacement was osteoarthritis (n = 9) and one for traumatic reason. One infection was diagnosed as early, one as delayed and eight as late.

**Conclusion:** Enterococcus PJ1 can lead to serious surgical complication and increase morbidity and mortality.
Analysis of the yield of a 14 days incubation protocol for tissue biopsies in orthopaedic device-associated infection

Peter Wahl¹, Nora Schwortzô², Dominique Fracheboud³, Emanuel Gautier⁴, Christian Chuarad⁵
¹FHRR Fribourg – Hôpital Cantonal, Kantonsspital Winterthur, ²CHUV, ³FHFR Fribourg – Hôpital Cantonal

Introduction: Microbiological cultures of tissue samples remain the mainstay for the diagnosis of infection. Prolonging incubation and increasing the number of samples has been proposed to optimize sensitivity of cultures, in order to detect slow-growing bacteria present in orthopaedic implant-associated infections. This study was performed to assess the yield of a 14 days incubation protocol for tissue biopsies from joint replacement and internal fixation device revisions in a general orthopaedic and trauma surgery setting.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of the time to culture positivity of revisions in a general orthopaedic and trauma surgery setting. Among these 70 cases, 58 (83%) were classified as infections, whereas 12 (17%) were considered as contaminants. The median time to positivity was 1 day (range 1–10) in case of infection, and 6 days (range 1–11) in case of contamination. Cultures were positive within 7 days of incubation in 56 (79.6%) of the cases of infection.

Conclusions: This study shows a benefit for prolonging microbiological culture incubation up to 7 days, but not beyond. While longer incubation might be of interest in particular situations, where the prevalence of slow-growing and anaerobic bacteria is higher, it does not appear to be productive in this setting of general orthopaedic and trauma surgery.

Knee arthrodesis with Wichita Fusion Nail® after infected TKA
Nicolas Gallusser, Anais K Luyet, Stephane Cherix, Olivier Bordenave
Lausanne University Hospital

Introduction: Knee arthrodesis is an established option for limb salvage after infected total knee arthroplasty (TKA) in case of recurrent infection, soft tissue damage, reduced bone stock or difficult extensor mechanism. Walking after arthrodesis is more efficient and less costly in energy expenditure than above-knee amputation. Surgical technique includes arthrodesis nails, external fixator and plate.

We present our results of knee arthrodesis using the modular Wichita Fusion Nail® in patients with treatment failure after infected TKA.

Methods: Fourteen patients with irretrievably failed TKA because of infection treated with Wichita Fusion Nail® from 2004 to 2012 were retrospectively reviewed to assess fusion rate, time to fusion, complication rate, including new infections, and ambulatory status.

Results: Eleven out of fourteen medical records were available for review. Mean follow-up was 35 months (6–132). Four patients died during follow-up of unrelated cause. At last visit, all patients were walking full weight-bearing on a fused arthrodesis. Mean time to union was 5 months (3–6). Three patients necessitated a re-arthrodesis to get union after a mean of 5 months after the last procedure. Two patients needed re-operation for wound dehiscence and one for suspicion of late new infection after fusion was acquired, without evidence of malignancy. One patient had sciatic nerve palsy due to stretching during surgery.

Conclusion: Arthrodesis with Wichita Fusion Nail® provides satisfactory results in patients with local failure after infected TKA, with 73% primary union rate, and no new infection at last follow-up visit. Although burdened with a high complications rate, it represents an acceptable option for limb salvage in this particular pathology.

Whole Body MRI In The Diagnosis And Management Of Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis (CRMO): A Case Series Of 31 Patients
Stephan Keller, Matthew Thomas Brown, Panagiotis Gikas, Benjamin Jacobs, Richard Keen, Rikin Hargunani, Asif Saifuddin, William Aston, Timothy W R Briggs
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, United Kingdom

Introduction: Chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (CRMO) is a benign and non-infective autoinflammatory bone disorder characterised by multiple and recurrent inflammatory bone lesions. It is often more appropriately termed non-bacterial osteitides (NBO), commonly diagnosed in children and young adults, patients classically present with insidious onset bone pain, tenderness and swelling. Lesions can occur in any bone, however the clavicle is most frequently affected. No diagnostic criteria exist and management protocols differ between institutions. We manage CRMO with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) + bisphosphonates, with anti-TNF therapy and surgical excision reserved for severe and refractory cases.

Objectives: To assess the yield of whole body MRI (WB-MRI) in the diagnosis and management of patients with CRMO.

Methods: Retrospective review of CRMO diagnoses since 2008 at a specialist orthopaedic and metabolic bone disease hospital. Cases were identified from electronic patient records, and clinical information was collated from radiology and histopathology records and individual case notes.

Results: 72 new CRMO diagnoses were identified since 2008. Thirty-one had one or more WB-MRI [mean age 21 years (range 6–53); 10 males, 21 females]. The number of WB-MRI per case ranged from 1 to 5 [median 2], and none required bone biopsy. WB-MRI identified multifocal lesions in 25 patients. The clavicle, tibia and femur were most frequently involved. All cases were managed with oral or intravenous bisphosphonates, with none requiring anti-TNF agents or surgical resection.

Conclusions: In the absence of specific diagnostic criteria, WB-MRI in combination with clinical assessment can aid in the prompt diagnosis of CRMO and help monitor response to treatment. WB-MRI avoids the morbidity of bone biopsy and has almost entirely replaced bone biopsy in the diagnosis of CRMO at our institution.
Early loosening of cementless Tumor-Endoprostheses in irradiated bone

G. Ulrich Exner1, Pascal A. Schär2, Timothy Colleen2
1OrthopaedieZentrum (OZ), 2Luzerner Kantonsspital Wolhusen, 3Kantonsspital Luzern Radioonkologie

Rationale: Whether uncemented or cemented joint arthroplasty following irradiation is superior is discussed controversially. Our standard in Tumor reconstructions is to use Megaprostheses with cementless fixation. In all three patients with prior irradiation of the bone cementless fixation resulted in early loosening. Following revision with cementation stable fixation could be achieved.

Materials and methods: Patients: S.R. *1981: At 15 years of age she was treated for an embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma with invasion of the hip joint by neo-adjuvant radiotherapy with 50 Gy followed by resection including part of the acetabulum. At 29 years she developed a rapid femoral head necrosis. Reconstruction was performed with a Pedestal Cup and an Alloclassic shaft (Zimmer®). Loosening of the cone of the Pedestal cup was evident 21 months postoperatively. Revision was performed with a cemented Lumic Prosthesis (Implantcast®), while the stable Alloclassic shaft was left in situ.

H.H. *1935: At 75 years of age the patient was treated for a high grade pleomorphic sarcoma originating in the M. vastus medialis with neo-adjuvant radiotherapy of 50 Gy. An extraarticular en bloc resection of the knee joint was performed and reconstructed with an uncemented MUTA-RUNO prosthesis. Two years later the shaft of the tibial segment showed loosening with cutting anteromedially. It was revised with a longer cemented tibial shaft. At over 2 years f/u the patient is disease-free with a stable reconstruction.

J.T. *1961: At 43 years of age the patient presented with an epitheloid leiomyosarcoma of the peroneal muscle group, which was resected en bloc followed by radiotherapy with 66 Gy and chemotherapy. No local recurrence, but evidence of lung metastases 16 months and biopsy proven bone metastasis in the distal femur with invasion of the knee joint 2 years later. An extraarticular resection was performed. While the femoral anchorage remained stable, loosening of the tibial component developed after 2 months. Revision was performed with a cemented stem. The reconstruct remained stable until the patient died from systemic metastases 16 months after the last revision.

Conclusion: Fixation of prostheses in irradiated bone may be different whether it is mostly trabecular bone or cortical bone. Experience after irradiation surely is limited. In our series of endoprostheses following irradiation all cementless fixtures in trabecular bone became loose quickly, while the cemented revision remained stable.

Shorter survival time in patients with osteosarcoma expressing MSH2 and MSH6 in a human tissue microarray

Thorsten Jentsch1, Bernhard Robl2, MSc, Marian Husmann2, Beata Bode-Lesniewska, PD Dr. med.1, Bruno Fuchs, Prof. Dr. med. et Dr. rer. nat.2
1UniversitätsSpital Zürich, 2Laboratory for Orthopedic Research, Department of Orthopedics, Balgrist University Hospital, Zürich, Switzerland, 3Institute of Surgical Pathology, University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Introduction: Currently, it is not possible to define osteosarcoma (OS) patients at greatest risk for short survival times. Valuable biomarkers for OS remain barely studied. Recently, soft tissue sarcomas have been linked to a deficiency in mismatch repair (MMR) genes. However, MxS protein homolog 2 (MSH2) and 6 (MSH6) are MMR proteins that have not been reported as biomarkers for OS. Our goal was the analysis of two possible biomarkers, MSH2 and MSH6 in regard to survival time in OS patients using a tissue microarray (TMA).

Materials and methods: Tumor tissue specimens from surgical primary tumor resections were collected from bone tissue of 67 patients with OS. A TMA was set up and sections were stained with MSH2 and MSH6. Grading was performed in a semi-quantitative manner by two independent investigators who were blinded to clinical information. Kaplan-Meier curves were used to calculate overall patient survival and the log-rank test assessed statistical differences between groups.

Results: We analyzed immunohistochemical expression of MSH2 and MSH6 in a human OS TMA. Follow up data was available for every patient and the mean clinical follow up time was 98 (range 7 to 213) months. Fifty-eight (87%) OS patients were MSH2 positively and MSH6 (p = 0.026) and a combination of MSH2 and MSH6 (MSH2/6) (p = 0.018). The 5-year-survival rates (yrs) for patients expressing MSH6 and MSH2/6 were 50%, compared to 77% and 63%. Also,
significantly shorter survival was seen in non-responders to chemotherapy with expression of MSH6 (p < 0.0001) and MSH2/6 (p = 0.029). The same holds true for patients with metastasis and expression of our studied markers (p < 0.0001), for example 17 ± 5 months, compared to 203 ± 7 months for MSH2/6.

**Conclusion:** Expression of MSH6 and MSH2/6 appears to significantly affect the aggressiveness of OSs and may predict survival time. Non-responders to chemotherapy and patients with metastasis, who stain positively for MSH6 or MSH2/6 may be at risk for very short survival times. Expression of MSH2/6 in metastasis also appears to be associated with a significantly worse survival time. Even though commonly reported as a repair system, MMR proteins may favor worse prognosis in OS.

### Treatment of aneurysmal bone cysts with alcoholoc preparations

**G. Ulrich Exner**, **Christian Candiari**
1OrthopaedieZentrum (OZZ), 2Ospedale Regionale di Lugano

**Rationale:** The standard of treatment of aneurysmal bone cysts (ABC) is aggressive curettage, however followed by a high rate of recurrence and possibly mutilating effects to neighbouring joints.

### Results:

Retrospective data was collected from 421 (129/30.6% female) diabetic or PAD patients that underwent amputations of the lower extremity at our institution between 2002–2012. Data such as demographic factors, history of diabetes, PAD (graded by Fontaine stadium 0 to 4), level of amputation, revision at the same level or a more proximal level, time from amputation to revision, polyneuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, previous angioplasty or peripheral bypass were collected. 28 patients had type I diabetes (6.7%) and 243 patients (57.7%) had type II diabetes. The mean time from diagnosis of diabetes to amputation was 20.56 years ± 11.87. PAD patients with Fontaine stage 4 (150/35.6%), 2 (105/30.3%), 3 (13/3.1%), 4 (150/35.6%), 201 (47.7%) patients underwent prior to amputation angioplasty and 44 (10.5%) a peripheral bypass. The most distal level of the lower extremity that still enables adequate blood supply for primary wound healing and a functional stump. The aim of this study was to evaluate the revision rate and possible risk factors for revision surgery in patients with diabetes or peripheral arterial disease (PAD) after major or minor lower extremity amputation was performed.

**Methods:** Retrospective data was collected from 421 (129/30.6% female) diabetic or PAD patients that underwent amputations of the lower extremity at our institution between 2002–2012. Data such as demographic factors, history of diabetes, PAD (graded by Fontaine stage 0 to 4), level of amputation, revision at the same level or a more proximal level, time from amputation to revision, polyneuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, previous angioplasty or peripheral bypass were extracted.

**Results:** Mean patient age at time of amputation was 68.84 years ± 12.72 years with a mean body mass index of 27.13 ± 6.53. 106 (revision rate of 25.18%) revision surgeries were performed, 53 of these were at the same amputation level and 53 at a more proximal level. 28 patients had type I diabetes (6.7%) and 243 patients (57.7%) had type II diabetes. The mean time from diagnosis of diabetes to amputation was 20.56 years ± 11.87. PAD patients with Fontaine stadium 0 (134/31.5%), 1 (47/11.2%), 2a (40/9.5%), 2b (37/8.6%), 3 (13/3.1%), 4 (150/35.6%), 201 (47.7%) patients underwent prior to amputation angioplasty and 44 (10.5%) a peripheral bypass. The median time from amputation to revision was 50.5 days (15–1801). Risk factors for revision were diabetic nephropathy (35.7%), and polyneuropathy (28.9%). Diabetic patients had a higher rate of revision to a more proximal level compared to non-diabetic patients (15% to 8%) (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** To our knowledge, this is the largest retrospective cohort study evaluating revision rates following all levels of lower extremity amputation in the patient population. We were able to demonstrate that patients with polyneuropathy or diabetic nephropathy had a significantly higher rate of revisions compared to the control group. Diabetic patients had a higher rate of revisions requiring a more proximal level of amputation compared to non-diabetic patients.

Successful Treatment with alcoholoc preparations has been reported repeatedly [1] and we wish to draw the attention to this with our experience.

### Materials and methods:

6 consecutive patients were treated with either Ethibloc® or Polydocanol (e.g. Aethoxysclero®, Scleroine®) injection under CT-control. One patient additionally had embolisation, one had thrombocyte concentrate injection and a third DBX (deminerallized bone matrix filling). Additionally other patients were treated with Polydocanol in developing countries.

**Results:** These six patients the process healed with complete or sufficient new bone formation without the necessity of extensive additional local measures with f/u 7 to 6 months.

**Conclusion:** Local treatment of ABC with alcoholoc preparations in these consecutive patients appeared superior to traditional aggressive curettage. This treatment modality should therefore considered as an option. Unfortunately the Ethibloc paste is no longer available and alcoholic solutions need to be used more cautiously as they may drain into venous outflow of the lesions, which in the hands of these authors is monitored by injection iodine contrast media before instillation of the alcoholic preparations.

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### Free communications II

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### Free communications III

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### Revision Rate after Major or Minor Lower Extremity Amputation in Diabetic or Peripheral Arterial Disease Patients

**Florian Wanivenhaus**, **Flavien Mauler**, **Teresa Stelzer**, **Thomas Bön**, **Alois Tschopp**, **Martin Berli**
1Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Uniklinik Balgrist, 3Spital Zollikogen, 4Biosstatistik Universität Zürich

**Introduction:** Lower extremity amputation is performed as the last possible surgical management option in patients with unresponsive infections, chronic non-healing wounds, necrosis, and uncontrollable pain. The amputation is performed at the most distal level of the lower extremity that still enables adequate blood supply for primary wound healing and a functional stump. The aim of this study was to evaluate the revision rate and possible risk factors for revision surgery in patients with diabetes or peripheral arterial disease (PAD) after major or minor lower extremity amputation was performed.

**Methods:** Retrospective data was collected from 421 (129/30.6% female) diabetic or PAD patients that underwent amputations of the lower extremity at our institution between 2002–2012. Data such as demographic factors, history of diabetes, PAD (graded by Fontaine stadium 0 to 4), level of amputation, revision at the same level or a more proximal level, time from amputation to revision, polyneuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, previous angioplasty or peripheral bypass were extracted.

**Results:** Mean patient age at time of amputation was 68.84 years ± 12.72 years with a mean body mass index of 27.13 ± 6.53. 106 (revision rate of 25.18%) revision surgeries were performed, 53 of these were at the same amputation level and 53 at a more proximal level. 28 patients had type I diabetes (6.7%) and 243 patients (57.7%) had type II diabetes. The mean time from diagnosis of diabetes to amputation was 20.56 years ± 11.87. PAD patients with Fontaine stage 0 (134/31.5%), 1 (47/11.2%), 2a (40/9.5%), 2b (37/8.6%), 3 (13/3.1%), 4 (150/35.6%), 201 (47.7%) patients underwent prior to amputation angioplasty and 44 (10.5%) a peripheral bypass. The median time from amputation to revision was 50.5 days (15–1801). Risk factors for revision were diabetic nephropathy (35.7%), and polyneuropathy (28.9%). Diabetic patients had a higher rate of revision to a more proximal level compared to non-diabetic patients (15% to 8%) (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** To our knowledge, this is the largest retrospective cohort study evaluating revision rates following all levels of lower extremity amputation in the patient population. We were able to demonstrate that patients with polyneuropathy or diabetic nephropathy had a significantly higher rate of revisions compared to the control group. Diabetic patients had a higher rate of revisions requiring a more proximal level of amputation compared to non-diabetic patients.

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### Dixon-based MRI for Assessment of Muscle-fat Content in Phantoms, Healthy volunteers and Patients with Achillodynia

**Norman Espinosa**, **Michael A. Fischer**, **Christian W. Pfirrmann**, **Norman Espinosa**, **Dimitri A. Raptis**, **Florian M. Buck**
1Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Department of Radiology, University Hospital Balgrist, 3Department of Orthopaedics, University Hospital Balgrist, 4Clinic of Visceral and Transplant Surgery, University Hospital of Zurich

**Objective:** To quantify the muscle fat-content (MFC) in phantoms, volunteers and patients with achillodynia using 2-point Dixon-based MRI (2pt-MRIDIXON) in comparison to MRspectroscopy and visual assessment of MFC.

**Methods:** 2pt-MRIDIXON was used to measure the MFC of 15 phantoms containing 0–100% fat-content and calf muscles in 30 patients (13 women; 57 ± 15 years) with achillodynia and in 20 volunteers (10 women; 30 ± 14 years) at 1.5T. Accuracy of 2pt-MRIDIXON in quantification of MFC was assessed in-vitro using phantoms and in-vivo using MR-spectroscopy (MRS) as the standard of reference. Fat-fractions derived from 2pt-MRIDIXON (FFDIXON) and MRS (FFMRS) were related to visual assessment of MFC (Scoutliger-grades 0–4) and Achilles-tendon quality (grade 0–4).

**Results:** Excellent linear correlation was demonstrated for FFDIXON with phantoms and with FFMRS in patients (pc = 0.997/0.995; p < .001). FFDIXON of the gastrocnemius muscle was significantly higher (p = .002) in patients (70% ± 4.7 %) as compared to volunteers (3.6% ± 0.7%), whereas visual-grading showed no difference between both groups (p > .05). FFMRS and FFDIXON were significantly higher in subjects with ≥grade 1 structural damage of the Achilles-tendon (p = .01).

**Conclusion:** 2pt-MRIDIXON allows for accurate quantification of MFC, outperforming visual assessment of calf muscle fat. Structural damage of the Achilles-tendon is associated with a significantly higher MFC.

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### Conclusion:

We wish to draw the attention to this with our experience.
The radiologic prediction of ankle arthritis in pes cavus

Timo Schmid1, Manuel Roth2, Fabian Krauser3,1
1Inseelspital Bern, Orthopädie
title-

Introduction: In pes cavus the raised medial arch, the forefoot adductus, and the hindfoot varus lead to elevated anteromedial ankle joint contact stresses with potential evolution to ankle arthritis. Little data exists on the radiological characteristics of the cavovarus deformity and its correlation to the risk of developing ankle arthritis.

Material and Methods: Weight bearing dorsoplantar and lateral radiographs of the foot of 100 patients with neuromuscular and idiopathic cavovarus deformities were analyzed and compared to an age and gender matched control group without foot deformities.

Results: Significant higher grades of arthritis were seen in the cavovarus group, with no difference between idiopathic and neurogenic deformities. Significant forefoot adduction was seen reflected by a difference in the dorsoplantar talo-first metatarsal angle (8.8° vs. –1.3°) and the talar-navicular coverage angle (0.6° vs. –10.7°). This forefoot adduction was significantly more pronounced in neurogenic than in idiopathic deformities (talo-first metatarsal angle 17.1° vs. 6.0°; talonavicular coverage 8.8° vs. –2.2°).

The lateral views revealed a significantly higher lateral talo-first metatarsal (Meary’s) angle (15.8° vs. 1.5°) and increased navicular height (45.7 mm vs. 34.4 mm). Talus and calcaneus presented a significantly dorsiflexed position (talar inclination 9.2° vs. 16.7°, calcaneal pitch 27.1° vs. 22.7°) and a lower talocalcaneal divergence (36.2° vs. 39.4°). The talar head was significantly plantarflexed compared to the talar axis (talar head to talar axis 104.6° vs. 99.5°). No significant differences between neurogenic and idiopathic cavovarus feet were seen for abovementioned measurements.

Conclusion: Radiologic characteristics of idiopathic and neurogenic cavovarus deformities are evaluated. While all angles measured displayed significant differences between cavovarus deformities and controls, only the difference of forefoot adduction between idiopathic and neurogenic deformities reached the level of significance. Age and Meary’s angle displayed a significant correlation with the risk to develop ankle arthritis.

Gait Variability in Ankle Osteoarthritis,

Swati Chopra1, Hossein Rouhani2, Julien Favre2
1Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois and University of Lausanne (CHUV), 2Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Introduction: Stride to stride gait variability (GV) has come up as a useful indicator of gait deviation and fall risk in old age and various neurological conditions e.g. multiple sclerosis, Parkinsonism, depression, etc. However, importance of GV in foot and ankle (F&A) pathologies are not well studied. Hence the aim of this study was to evaluate the level of GV in ankle osteoarthritis (AOA) and its two common surgical treatments, Ankle Arthrodesis (AA) and Total Ankle Replacement (TAR).

Method: Spatio temporal (STP) gait parameters and their variability were assessed in 98 participants, who were divided into four groups: 23 AOA, 25 TAR, 18 AA, and 32 controls (CON). Gait Assessment was performed using 3 D inertial sensors (Physilog, BioAGM, CH). Participants performed a 50 m walking trial, twice, at a normal walking pace. Mean, median, standard deviation, coefficient of variation (CV) and interquartile range (IQR) of each measured parameter were calculated over the two trials and compared with the CON using the Wilcoxon rank sum test (<0.05).

Results: Comparing the STP parameters in TAR and AA with CON showed similar results, with difference in cadence, stride, shank mobility and peak swing speed (PSS) (p <0.05) while AOA group showed difference in all studied parameters (p <0.05). While GV results showed significant variability in all groups, TAR results were comparable to controls. CV results are given in following sequence (AOA AA TAR CON) with (* p <0.05) compare to CON: cadence (25.07 (79.76) 29.61 (44.17) 21.11 (60.64) 158.6 (68.68)), Doubles support (8.81 (3.87) 7.76 (4.27) 7.03 (4.43) 13.01 (6.95)), Shank ROM (2.04 (0.65) 1.91 (0.97) 1.57 (0.81) 1.24 (0.64)), stride (2.19 (2.3) 2.93 (0.92) 1.83 (0.84) 1.8 (0.83)), speed (3.5 (1.81) 3.13 (1.75) 2.91 (0.81) 2.61 (0.78)), PSS (4.13 (2.3) 4.11 (2.67) 2.92 (1.6) 2.69 (1.11)).

Variability in cadence, double support, shank mobility, stride, speed, PSS in both AOA and AA were significantly different to control. While in TAR group only double support showed variability significantly different to controls.

Conclusion: STP results of this study are similar to previous gait studies. The CV results of the study reported high GV in AOA and AA groups. AOA group showed to controls while TAR group showed improved gait with no significant GV. However, there are a number of factors behind the variability in a gait hence GV is not a worthwhile parameter in assessing outcome of AOA surgeries.

Mid- to long-term outcome of modified Triple Arthrodesis

Julian Röhm1, Lukas Zwick1, Tamara Horn Lang1, Yves Salenting1, Beat Hintermann1, Markus Knupp2,1
1Kantonsspital Basel, Klinik für Orthopädie und Traumatologie des Bewegungsapparates, 2Oberdorf, Switzerland.

Introduction: Isolated talonavicular and subtalar fusion through a single medial approach has been advocated as an alternative to triple arthrodesis in correcting acquired adult flatfoot deformity. The purpose of this study was to critically look at the mid- to long-term outcome, union rates and reoccurrence of flatfoot deformity due to secondary deformity in the adjacent joints.

Methods: Ninety-seven consecutive diaphyseal arthrodeses (85 patients) were included. All patients were treated by one of two surgeons between 2005 and 2011. The mean age of the patients was 66 years (range, 39–86 years). All of them presented with a symptomatic, rigid flatfoot deformity due to arthritic flatfoot or severe valgus deformity a medial displacement osteotomy of the calcaneus was additionally performed. Furthermore, 11 patients underwent a fusion of the medial tarsometatarsal joint due to collapse of the medial column. Union rate, loss of correction and secondary deformity were analysed on radiographs.

Results: One patient was lost to follow up. The clinical and radiographic outcomes of 96 feet were analyzed with an average follow-up of 60 months (range, 2.5–8.5 years). Radiographic examination revealed progression of ankle valgus deformity in seven cases and collapse of the medial arch in eight cases. Nonunion was observed in eleven feet (three in the talonavicular, three in the calcaneus and four in both joints). Five cases were asymptomatic and six needed revision. In three cases avascular necrosis of the lateral talus body was observed. Two were treated with total ankle replacement, the third was asymptomatic. A further case required revision due to overcorrection. Wound healing problems were limited to the superficial skin layer. Eight patients needed either a complete or partial removal of the arthrodesis screws.

Conclusion: Diple arthrodesis showed a good clinical and radiological mid- to long-term outcome. The main complications were secondary valgus tilt in the ankle in 6%, collapse of the medial arch in 9% and nonunion in 12%. Avascular necrosis of the talus is a rare complication (3%). Despite the isolated medial approach, nonunion rates are comparable with other hindfoot fusion techniques using an additional lateral approach. In conclusion we found that diple arthrodesis provides reliable mid- and longterm results for the correction of rigid flatfoot deformity.

First metatarsophalangeal arthrodesis: Fusion Rate of a novel dorsal Fusionplate

Florian Wanenmacher1, Norman Espinosa1, Philipp Tschopp1, Stephan Wirth1,2
1Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Uniklinik Balgrist.

Introduction: Fusion of the first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint is considered a „gold standard“ procedure for hallux rigidus, severe hallux valgus deformity and as a salvage procedure for previous failed MTP arthroplasty and failed hallux valgus surgeries. Numerous fixation techniques are described in the literature including crossed screws and dorsal plates.

Methods: Retrospective data was collected from 78 consecutive patients (84 arthrodesis/ 74.36% females) that underwent arthrodesis of the first MTP joint with a novel fusion plate (2.7 mm VAR Synthes MP fusionplate, Oberdorf, Switzerland) at our institution between January 2011 and December 2012 with a minimum of one year follow up. Data such as demographic factors, indication for fusion, rate and area of fusion at 6 weeks was determined by CT scans. Standard weight bearing radiographs were used to measure the pre- and postop alignment of the first ray, and the complication rate was extracted.

Results: The mean age at the time of surgery was 60.73 years (range: 29–83). The mean body mass index was 26.28 kg/m² (range: 14.4–39.64). The diagnosis of hallux rigidus was in 65 cases (77.38%) the indication for fusion. 16 patients (19.04%) presented after prior hallux valgus surgery. The mean pre- and postoperative MTP angle
was 21.52° (±14.95°), respectively 13.92° (±6.78°). The mean postoperative dorsiflexion of the hallux measured on sagittal CT scans was 20.41° (±8.67°). 6 weeks postoperatively 12 (16.67%) arthrodesis showed complete fusion, 55 (76.39%) partial fusion, and 5 (6.94%) no fusion (n = 72). Of the partial fusions 48 cases (87.27%) showed a fusion predominately at the dorsal area of the fused MTP joint. 4 cases showed that the CT scan was not complete and they all showed complete fusion. In 6 patients hardware removal was performed due to painful hardware. And in one patient a revision arthrodesis had to be performed due to pseudoarthrosis.

Conclusion: This study is the first to evaluate fusion rates of first MTP arthrodesis facilitating a CT scan at 6 weeks postoperative. The majority (93.66%) of first MTP arthrodesis with the novel device showed complete fusion within 6 weeks. An excellent reproducible sagittal and horizontal alignment of the hallux could be achieved.

Realignment osteotomy in fibular malunion: mid-term results in 19 consecutive patients
Alexej Barg1, Martin Wiewiorski1, Monika Horisberger1, Jochen Paul1, Heath Henninger1, Victor Valderrambo1
1Universitätsspital Basel, 2Universität Orthopaedischer Center Salt Lake City

Introduction: The most frequent posttraumatic malformations of the fibula are shortening and malrotation, occurring in up to 33%. It has been demonstrated that substantial fibular displacement may substantially increase the contact pressures in the ankle joint. Therefore distant fibular malunion is a risk factor for developing symptomatic ankle osteoarthrosis. The objectives of this study were to (1) describe our treatment algorithm and surgical technique in patients with posttraumatic fibula malunions; (2) determine intra- and postoperative complications rates, and (3) to describe mid-term clinical and radiological outcomes and quality of life.

Methods: 19 consecutive patients (11 male, 8 female, mean age 42 years, range 19–68) with symptomatic fibular malunions were included into this prospective study. The initial injury was Weber B and C fracture in 7 and 12 ankles, respectively. The mean time between the injury and reconstructive surgery was 17 months (range 6–101). In all patients a z-shaped osteotomy of the fibula was performed to achieve the appropriate length/rotation of the fibula. All patients were evaluated pre- and postoperatively (mean follow-up 4.9 years, range 3.2–6.7). Radiological outcomes were assessed using standardized weight-bearing radiographs. Clinical outcomes were assessed using visual analogue scale (VAS), American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) hindfoot scale, and SF-36 questionnaire.

Results: There were no intraoperative complications. In two patients early wound healing problems were observed, and resolved with i.v. antibiotics. Osseous healing was observed in all ankles within 10 weeks after surgery. The length and rotation of the fibula was improved in all patients, according to Weber criteria. All patients achieved significant pain relief (VAS: 6.5 ± 1.1 to 0.9 ± 0.8, P < 0.001) and functional improvement (AOFAS hindfoot scale: 48.4 ± 14.5 to 85.7 ± 7.4, P < 0.001). The SF-36 score also significantly increased in all 8 subgroups. In 11 patients hardware was removed due a discomfort after a mean of 11.8 months (range 22–22.56 months).

Conclusion: A z-shaped osteotomy is an efficient and successful method to restore fibula length and rotation in patients with posttraumatic malunion. Our findings in this series of 19 ankles confirm that this realignment surgery results in significant pain relief and functional improvement.

Mid- to long-term biomechanical outcome of joint preserving realignment surgery for ankle osteoarthritis
Corina Nüesch, Alexej Barg, Geert Pagenaert, Victor Valderrambo
Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsspital Basel

Introduction: Joint preserving surgeries have gained popularity as treatment of asymmetric early and mid-stage ankle osteoarthritis. However, only limited long-term data on strength and walking biomechanics are available. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to quantify isometric plantar- and dorsiflexion strength and power parameters (dynamic range of motion, peak moments) in patients who underwent realignment surgery.

Methods: A minimum of seven years after realignment surgery (age: 44.7 ± 7.0 years; body mass index (BMI): 27.2 ± 4.6), and eight age- and gender matched healthy controls (age: 44.3 ± 6.6 years; BMI: 25.2 ± 3.4 kg/m²) were included in the study. The measurements were performed with (1) an instrumented pressure plate analysis with a six camera motion analysis system (Vicon, Oxford, UK) and two force plates (Kistler, Winterthur, Switzerland) to assess ankle, knee, and hip kinematics and kinetics, and (2) an isometric torque measurement (torque transducer: SM-500N, Interface Inc., Scottsdale AZ, USA) to assess the plantarflexion and dorsiflexion strength in neutral joint position. Quality of life was assessed using the SF-36 questionnaire. Differences between the patients’ affected and the controls’ non- dominant leg, as well as between the patients’ healthy and the controls’ dominant leg were analyzed using Student’s t-test.

Results: The gait analysis showed that the patients walked slower (-7%, p = 0.033), their affected leg was less extended and they all showed complete fusion. In 6 patients hardware removal was performed due to painful hardware. And in one patient a revision arthrodesis had to be performed due to pseudoarthrosis.

Conclusion: This study is the first to evaluate fusion rates of first MTP arthrodesis facilitating a CT scan at 6 weeks postoperative. The majority (93.66%) of first MTP arthrodesis with the novel device showed complete fusion within 6 weeks. An excellent reproducible sagittal and horizontal alignment of the hallux could be achieved.

Subtalar and Naviculocuneiform Fusion for the Treatment of Hindfoot Valgus with Collapse of the Medial Arch
Andrea Gilgen1, Lukas Zwick1, Beat Hintermann2
1UKBB, 2Kantonsspitzz Badenland Orthopädie Liestal

Introduction: Adult acquired flatfoot deformity has become a common entity that is attributed mainly to posterior tibial tendon dysfunction (PTTD). A collapse of the medial arch can occur at different levels. Modified triple fusion has become the treatment of choice in patients with PTTD stage III. This procedure corrects the hindfoot valgus deformity but does not sufficiently restore the mediotalus arch with the main destabilization process at the naviculocuneiform (NC) joint. We thus started to fuse the subtalar (ST) and the NC-I-II joints, while sparing the talonavicular (TN) joint. The purpose of this study was to assess the obtained radiological correction and the stability in a first consecutive series of patients.

Methods: From June 2009 to May 2012, 28 feet (26 patients; age 66 [44–80] years; female 21, male 5) were treated with a ST and NC fusion. Intraoperatively, the PTT was diseased in 27 feet (96%). When a neutral alignment of the hindfoot could not be achieved solely by ST fusion, a medial sliding osteotomy of calcaneus was added (13 feet, 46%). The following radiographic parameters were measured on standard weight-bearing radiographs preoperative and after 2 and 12 months: talus-first-metatarsal angle ap/lateral, TN coverage angle, lateral talocalcaneal angle, calcaneal pitch angle and the hindfoot offset on the Saltzman view.

Results: Fusion was achieved in all but two feet within 2.6 (2–4) months. Two patients developed an asymptomatic nonunion of the NC joint. A statistically significant difference was found in all measured parameters after two months. After one year, the average loss of correction was less than three degrees, only one patient showed a progressive collapse of the naviculocuneiform joint. The SF-36 score also significantly increased in all 8 subgroups. In 11 patients hardware was removed due to discomfort after a mean of 11.8 months (range 22–22.56 months).

Conclusion: A z-shaped osteotomy is an efficient and successful method to restore fibula length and rotation in patients with posttraumatic malunion. Our findings in this series of 19 ankles confirm that this realignment surgery results in significant pain relief and functional improvement.

Total arthroplasty of the metatarsophalangeal joint of the hallux – an average 4 years prospective follow-up study
Monika Horisberger1, David Haenen2, Alexej Barg2, Victor Valderrambo2
1Universitätsspital Basel, 2Orthopädie, Universitätsspital Basel

Introduction: Total arthroplasty of the metatarsophalangeal joint of the hallux rigidiust is arthrodesis of MTP-I joint, thus accepting the permanent and complete loss of mobility in this biomechanically important joint. In the past, many attempts have been made in total replacement of MTP joint. Most of them failed due to early loosening and wear. The aim of this prospective study is to evaluate the results of a new unconstrained, modular, three components, porous titanium and hydroxyapatite coated, press-fit prosthesis.

Methods: From 2008 to 2010 we prospectively included 28 MTP I prosthesis in 24 patients in the study. The average age of the patients was 62.8 years (range, 48–87). Pre- and postoperatively at an average of 50.3 months (range, 35–62 months) the patients were evaluated.
clinically including the AOFAS forefoot score, visual analogue scale for pain (VAS), joint stability, and ability to wear normal shoes. Pre- and postoperative weightbearing radiographs were obtained to assess forefoot alignment, osteoarthritis grade, osteointegration, and integrity of the total arthroplasty. Fluoroscopy was used to determine the true range of motion of the prosthesis.

Results: Over the follow-up, 4 prosthesis had to be converted to MTP arthrodesis and 2 patients with three prosthesis died during follow-up. For the remainder, the AOFAS forefoot score significantly improved from 57.6 (range, 29–80) to 82.3 (range, 58–95) and the VAS for pain decreased from 5.4 (range, 0–9) to 0.4 (range, 0–2). Range of motion increased from 39.6° (0–60) preoperatively to 87.2° (range, 45–115) and decreased to 28.6° (range, 11–52) at latest follow-up. The majority of patients had dorsiflexion contracture. All prosthesis components, which were still in place showed stable osteointegration and no migration.

Conclusion: The new design had less loosening compared to the older types. With the new prosthetic design good clinical mid-term results with respect to AOFAS forefoot score, pain reduction and daily live activities can be achieved. However, range of motion that was preserved over the years was small. Given the increased long-term risk for revision surgery and complications compared to first MTPJ arthrodesis, first MTPJ replacement has to prove superiority not just equity to arthrodesis. To date, this leaves first MTPJ replacement as a viable alternative to fusion for patients with severe hallux rigidus unwilling to have permanent stiffness in this joint for cosmetic or functional reasons.
Kinematic of the Shoulder Joints in Professional Tennis Players

Alexandre Lädemann1, Sylvain Chagué2, Frank Kolo2, Cécillia Charbonnier2
1Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, La Tour Hospital, Geneva, 2Artanim Foundation, Medical Research Department, Geneva, Switzerland, 3Rive Droite Radiology Center, Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction: Shoulder pain and injury are common in tennis players. The precise causes for these pains remain unclear, but it is believed they could result from different factors (e.g., impingements (Gilles Walch’s and Christopher Jobe’s theories), anterior dynamic (Frank Jobe’s theory) and posterosuperior static glenohumeral instability (Stephen Burkhart’s theory), scapular orientation, etc.). Impingement at critical tennis positions and glenohumeral instability have rarely been dynamically evaluated in vivo. The purpose of this study was thus to evaluate the different types of impingement and stability during tennis movements.

Methods: Type and frequency of impingement as well as percentage of subluxation were evaluated in ten intermediate or ex-professional tennis players through a novel dedicated patient-specific measurement technique based on optical motion capture and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

Results: All volunteers, nine male and one female, had a clinically functional rotator cuff. No tennis players had 180° range of motion in tennis positions and glenohumeral instability have rarely been dynamically evaluated in vivo. The purpose of this study was thus to evaluate the different types of impingement and stability during tennis movements.

Conclusion: Tennis players presented frequent radiographic signs of structural lesions that could be mainly related to posterosuperior impingements due to repetitive abnormal motion contacts (Gilles Walch’s and Christopher Jobe’s theories). This is the first study demonstrating that a dynamic and precise motion analysis of the entire kinematic chain of the shoulder is possible through a non-invasive method of investigation. This premier kinematic observation offers novel insights into the analysis of shoulder impingement and instability that could, with future studies, be generalized to other shoulder pathologies and sports. This original method may open new horizons leading to improvement in impingement comprehension.

Influence of plate size and design upon healing of ulna shortening osteotomies

Anna Jungwirth1, Ladislav Nagy2, Andreas Schweizer2, Paul Borbás1
1Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Musculoskeletal Research Unit (MSRU), Vetsuisse Faculty, University Zurich

Introduction: Different methods of ulnar shortening are used in the treatment of ulnocarpal impaction. Plate fixation is an established method. Besides the risk of loosening, loss of reduction and non-union, the applied hardware often entails discomfort on the implant site and ultimately necessitates plate removal. In order to improve on these shortcomings a new plating system was introduced in 2010. The aim of this retrospective study was to compare this new LCP Ulna Osteotomy System 2.7 mm (Synthes) with the former 3.5 mm LDCOP (Synthes) regarding consolidation, complications and rate of plate removal.

Methods: 129 patients were treated with ulnar shortening osteotomies (UOT) in the time of 03/03 to 08/12. 2 different plates were used. Between 03/03 and 05/10 UOT were performed on 75 patients using a 6- or 5-hole 3.5 mm LDCOP plate (group 1). 74 osteotomies were transverse, 1 oblique. After its introduction the LCP 2.7mm was used beginning 07/10 in so far 55 patients thereof 40 UOT had a follow-up of at least 1 year and were included for evaluation (group 2). The osteotomy was transverse (21) or oblique (19). The 2 groups did not differ in age or indication for surgery. The operative approach was identical and the postoperative treatment didn’t differ either.

Results: Average time to complete consolidation of the osteotomy in group 1 was 326 days. Pain at the plate site occurred in 29 patients. Removal of the plate was performed in 28 cases (37.5%), 22 because of pain at the plate site, 3 in addition to other surgeries. There was one major complication (compartment syndrome, following fasciotomy). Minor complications were CRPS (1), plate loosening (1, conservative treatment). In group 2 average time to complete consolidation was 247 days. 18 patients had pain at the plate site. Removal of the plate was performed in 13 patients (32.5%), 2 in addition to other surgery. One major complication occurred (traumatic avulsion of the plate, repeat plate fixation). Minor complication was a CRPS (7).

Conclusion: Anabolic steroids have the potential to prevent the onset of fatty muscle infiltration if application starts immediately after tendon repair and seem to induce muscle hypertrophy if the application is started after repair.

“What radial head replacements would tell us if they could speak”. A monocentric analysis of radial head replacements and explantations over a 10 year period

Michael C. Glanzmann1, Michael C. Glanzmann2, Fabrizio Moro2
1Schultesheilklinik, 2Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Reports on clinical results of radial head replacements are limited. Goal of this monocentric study is to present clinical and radiographical results of all implantations and explantations of radial head prosthesis over a 10 year period.

Methods: Between 2003 und 2013, 16 patients were treated with a cemented bipolar radial head prosthesis for a chronic or acute posttraumatic elbow instability. In the same period, 8 patients underwent explantation of a failed radial head replacement. The evaluation at the final follow-up consisted of documentation of the functional results using the Mayo Elbow Performance Score (MEPS) and a radiological assessment.

Results: The mean age of the patients at the time of surgery was 55 years (31–70), and with 24 months (300–12) in the implantation-group. 3 patients (12.5%) were lost prior to follow-up. In the implantation group no revision surgery was recorded until final follow-up. Mean MEPS of these patients was 83 points (50–100). Survival time of the radial head replacement was 86 months (8–333) in the explantation group. The reason for revision was implant failure in 5 cases (loosening or breakage) and ankylosis in 3 patients. In 1 of the 8 explantation further surgical interventions became necessary.

Conclusion: Breakage of the implant and refractory ankylosis were the main reasons for failure of the radial head prosthesis. Revision of a radial head prosthesis comes along with an increased likelihood for further surgical procedures. With these results the authors feel vindicated in their restrictive attitude in performing radial head replacement.

Oblique osteotomies healed faster than transverse ones. (p = 0.158). Interestingly the oblique osteotomies healed faster (218d in group 2) than the transverse ones (337d in Group 1, 273d in Group 2).

Conclusion: In group 2 using the new LCP 2.7 mm less implants had to be removed and the time to consolidation was shorter (p = 0.05). Oblique osteotomies healed faster than transverse ones. (p = 0.158). However the cost of the implant is 4 times higher.
A radiolucent, carbon fibre reinforced synthetic plate for distal radius fractures: first experience

Marc Wieder, Gerd Laub, Jörg Sonderegger
Department of Orthopedics, Spitalregion Rheintal, Werdenberg, Sarganserland

Introduction: Steel and titanium are widely and successfully used implant materials in traumatology. However, some disadvantages are related to radiopacity and magnetic interference. Therefore, we conducted a prospective study using a computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Also, bone healing might be difficult to monitor in x-ray studies due to the invisibility of the bone underlying the implant. Furthermore, hardware removal still remains an issue, especially with titanium implants. In order to avoid these problems carbon fibre reinforced polyetheretherketone (PEEK) implant material has been developed.

Methods: Seven consecutive cases of dorsally displaced extra-screw fixation (icotec AG, Altstätten, Switzerland) of integrated and intraarticular distal radius fractures were stabilized with a palmar semi-rigid carbon fibre reinforced PEEK plate with angular stable polyetheretherketone (PEEK) implant material has been developed. The main advantages of this synthetic material are radiolucency, artefact-free imaging, good fatigue properties and biocompatibility. In spine surgery carbon fibre reinforced PEEK implants have been successfully used and documented for the last few years. Recently palmar plates for distal radius fractures have been developed.

Methods: Seven consecutive cases of dorsally displaced extra-screw fixation (icotec AG, Altstätten, Switzerland). Integrated and intraarticular distal radius fractures were stabilized with a palmar semi-rigid carbon fibre reinforced PEEK plate with angular stable screw fixation (icotec AG, Altstätten, Switzerland). Integrated radiopaque tantalum filaments and metallic screw tips allow correct placement of the plate and make the implant visible under image intensifier. A clinical and radiographic follow-up was performed at 2 and 6 weeks, and at 3 and 6 months.

Results: The ROM at final follow-up was comparable to the contralateral wrist and all patients were pain free 6 months postoperatively. DASH Score continuously increased, bony union was achieved in all cases. We did not record any infections, secondary dislocations, tendon ruptures or other complications. In one case where MRI of the wrist was performed we could compare artefacts of the used implant to Titanium.

Conclusion: We present our first experience on a new carbon fibre reinforced synthetic palmar plate for distal radius fractures. The implant might represent an interesting alternative to metallic implants. Potential advantages are radioluency, no adherence to surrounding tissues and no artefacts in CT and MR imaging. A disadvantage of the implant is the mission of multidirectional screw fixation, making it difficult to use in complex fracture situations.

Scaphoid Waist Nonunions Treated with Iliac Crest or Vascularized Bone Grafts

Mauro Maniglio1, Andreas Schweizer2, Ladislav Nagy2

Introduction: We report the results of 57 cases of surgical treatment of traumatic scaphoid nonunion. And the differences between the three used techniques either with an iliac bone graft (19) or an vascularized graft from the palmar (15) or dorsal (23) side of the radius.

Methods: Mean age of patients: 24.8 years. Twenty-six cases had developed proximal scaphoid pole avascular osteonecrosis (AVON). Operative technique was chosen based on vascularization, location of the fracture, prior failed operations, and availability of a pedicle. We evaluated results retrospectively and compared clinical, functional, and radiological outcomes.

Results: There was union in 46 of the 57 cases (81%). No significant differences in rate of consolidation were found between the 3 treatment groups; the highest, 87%, resulted from treatment with a ventral Mathoulin graft. The greatest improvement in grip strength was found in the iliac crest group (from 70% to 91%). The minor one in the dorsal vascularized graft group (from 81% to 83%). Major improvement in ROM was found in the iliac crest group from 105 preoperative to 130 postoperative in F/E. The minor improvement was in the group of dorsal vascularized grafts. Even if the improvement in ROM wasn’t significant. Fifty of 57 patients returned to work after a median time of 13 weeks, without differences between the treatment-groups. Iliac crest grafts yielded major correction of preoperative angulation.

Conclusion: Iliac crest grafts afforded the best reconstructions and the best clinical results in grip strength and ROM, but in these cases there were better circumstances for good healing because of a better blood supply. Chondrovascularized grafts allow a good consolidation rate and a similar outcome in the Mayo score, of more difficult cases with AVON. But shows less increase in ROM and grip strength.

Therapeutic study with a Level of evidence: Ila

Gram staining in hand phlegmona

Camillo Müller1, Jean-Yves Beaulieu2, Kheeldass Jugun2, Pierre Hoffmeyer2, Alexandre de Smet2, Cindy Bouvet2, Matthieu Hanauer2, Daniel Waldier2, Paolo Erba3, Ilker Uckay5
1,2Orthopaedic Surgery Service, Service of Hand Surgery, Geneva University Hospitals, and Faculty of Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland, 3Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Lausanne University Hospitals, and Faculty of Medicine, Lausanne, Switzerland, 4Orthopaedic Surgery Service, Service of Infectious Diseases, Geneva University Hospitals, and Faculty of Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland

Objective: Gram staining yields a very low sensibility in the predilection of positive microbiological cultures in septic arthritis. The role of Gram and acridine-orange staining in non-artithic hand phlegmona remains unknown.

Methods: Retrospective study at Geneva University Hospitals. Paediatric patients, atypical pathogens and arthritis cases were excluded. Stains were performed in the hospital’s own laboratory by collaborators with long experience in microbiology.

Results: Among 126 episodes of pyogenic hand phlegmona, only 42 episodes (33%) revealed a positive Gram-staining and 16 episodes (13%) revealed a positive acridine-orange staining. When there was an abscess, the Gram-stain was positive in 50% of cases. The Spearman-correlation coefficient between Gram and acridine-staining was 0.49. In a multivariate logistic regression analysis, the presence of an abscess/collection was positively correlated with a positive Gram stain (odds ratio 11.6, 95% confidence interval 3.0–44.3), while the duration of continuous antibiotic therapy before the first surgical intervention was inversely related (OR 0.2. 95% CI 0.1–0.8). Age, immune suppression, tumefaction, number of fingers involved, fever or the serum C-reactive protein level on admission did not improve the low performance of Gram-staining. Local costs for Gram and acridine-orange staining were 23 and 29 US$, respectively.

Conclusion: Gram-stain is relatively costly and not helpful in the immediate confirmation of clinically suspected infection in hand phlegmona, especially if the patients are pre-treated with antibiotics. Acridine-orange yielded even worse results.

Scaphoid Waist Nonunions Treated with Iliac Crest or Vascularized Bone Grafts

Mauro Maniglio1, Andreas Schweizer2, Ladislav Nagy2

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Conclusion: Iliac crest grafts afforded the best reconstructions and the best clinical results in grip strength and ROM, but in these cases there were better circumstances for good healing because of a better blood supply. Chondrovascularized grafts allow a good consolidation rate and a similar outcome in the Mayo score, of more difficult cases with AVON. But shows less increase in ROM and grip strength.

Therapeutic study with a Level of evidence: Ila

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Conclusion: Gram-stain is relatively costly and not helpful in the immediate confirmation of clinically suspected infection in hand phlegmona, especially if the patients are pre-treated with antibiotics. Acridine-orange yielded even worse results.
CapFlex-PIP® – A new modular surface-glidng arthroplasty: From the idea to the product placement

Stefanie Hensler, Laurent Audige, Miriam Marks, Daniel Herren, Stephan Schindele
Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Various implants of different materials are currently used for proximal interphalangeal joint (PIP) replacement, but each implant has some disadvantage like instability, large bone resection or missing osteointegration. These knowledge places important requirements in the development of an implant. This study shows the cycles of the development and product placement of a new medical product, illustrated by the modular surface-glidng implant CapFlex-PIP®.

Methods: The development of a medical product includes different steps until the first implantation. Beginning with the idea and the analysis of the clinical problem, about searching of industrial and scientific partners, the construction and realization of the implant, there is a testing phase with some technical tests, first implantation in cadavers as well as following analyses. Clinical use can be initiated after CE registration. From its first implantation in patients the safety and performance of the CapFlex-PIP® implant was evaluated by clinical studies and systematic prospective documentation including clinical examination parameters, patient-reported outcomes and complications, with follow-up at 6 weeks, 3, 6 and 12 months. Further follow-up at 2 and 5 years are planned.

Results: The development of the CapFlex-PIP® implant took 5 years. After the design phase, the biomechanical studies and the risk analysis required for CE mark, the first patient’s implantation could be performed. For the clinical trail, approved by the ethic committee, between 09/2010 and 11/2011, 10 patients were included in a pilot study and followed up until 12 months after surgery. Compared to preoperatively, the range of motion increased slightly from 42° to 51° (p = 0.312), the pain relief improved significantly from 7.9 to 1.1 (p = 0.018), the quickDASH decreased significantly from 43 to 15 points (p = 0.007) and adequate joint stability was found in 9 patients.

Supported by these promising results, the implant was increasingly used. Until 01/2014 48 operated patients were documented in our local clinical register.

Conclusion: As shown by the example of the CapFlex-PIP® implant, the development and clinical introduction of new orthopedic implants is a long process. Different steps have to be completed, in which laboratory testing and clinical studies are essential. Systematic early documentation should be performed to demonstrate the clinical benefit for the treated patients.

Influence of Obesity on Revision and Infection Rates after Primary Total Knee Arthroplasty

Matthieu Zingg, Hermès Micozzi, Iker Uşkay, Pierre Hoffmeyer, Anne Lübbeke-Wölf HUG

Introduction: Obesity is highly prevalent in patients undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA). Previous studies assessing the influence of obesity on revision and infection rates after primary TKA have led to controversial results. Our aim was to assess the effect of different categories of BMI on revision and infection rates after primary TKA.

Material and Methods: We conducted a prospective cohort study at the Geneva University Hospitals including all primary TKAs performed in our institution between April 1996 and December 2011. Outcomes were all-cause revision and deep infection as a function of BMI categorized according to WHO classification. Additionally, stratification for sex was performed. Effects were measured using incidence rates and rate ratios (IRR). Adjustment for baseline imbalances was performed using a propensity score.

Results: A total of 2,816 primary TKAs performed in 2,321 patients were included (mean age, 72 years; 69% women). Mean follow-up was 76 months (range, 2–183). Baseline characteristics showed that increasing BMI was associated with a higher proportion of women, decreasing age and more frequent comorbidities. Over the study period, we observed 70 (2.5%) revisions and 33 (1.2%) infections. Comparing different BMI categories, an increase in both revision and infection rates was noted at a BMI cut-off of 35. There were 70 vs. 3.3 revisions/1000 P-ys and 3.5 vs. 1.5 infections/1000 P-ys for a BMI ≥35 and <35, respectively. Adjusted IRRs were 2.1 (95% CI 1.2–3.5) for revision and 2.3 (95% CI 1.1–5.1) for infection. Stratification according to sex showed that both men and women with a BMI ≥35 were more at risk for revision and infection than those <35. This difference was more pronounced in men.

Conclusion: We found that primary TKA in patients categorized as obese class II and higher (BMI ≥35) was associated with a two times higher rate of revision (for any cause) and deep infection. The effect was stronger in men than in women.

Patient-reported outcomes allow to determine treatment success after total knee arthroplasty

Johannes M Giesinger1, Bernhard Jost2, Henrik Behrend2, Johannes M Giesinger3
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, 2Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 3Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam

Introduction: Patient-reported outcome measures assessing joint-specific and general health parameters are a cornerstone of outcome assessment following joint surgery. Recently measures of patient satisfaction have risen to prominence as an overarching definition of patients’ view on treatment success encompassing patient satisfaction, functional increase, pain relief and willingness to undergo the same procedure again.

We aimed at evaluating thresholds of ‘treatment success’ for the joint-specific WOMAC osteoarthritis index and the EQ-5D questionnaire, a general health measure.

Methods: This is a retrospective analysis of prospective cohort study data, from the TKA registry at the Kantonsspital St. Gallen (Switzerland). Consecutive cases over a 5 year period providing 1-year follow-up data for the WOMAC, the EQ-5D and completing single questions regarding treatment success were included. We considered treatment to be successful, if the patient reported a high level of satisfaction, pain relief, functional increase, and willingness to undergo the same procedure again. This strict criterion allowed to create a dichotomous external criterion for receiver operator characteristics (ROC) analysis to determine treatment success thresholds for the WOMAC and the EQ-5D.

Results: Data from 1051 patients one year after TKA were analysed. 62.6% were female, mean age was 68.9 years (SD 9.8). 75.0% reported high treatment satisfaction, 87.7% reported willingness to undergo the same procedure again, 81.8% reported functional increase, and 89.5% reported pain relief. In total, 88.6% affirmed all four criteria and were classified as ‘treated successfully’. ROC analysis on predicting treatment success with the WOMAC showed an area under curve (AUC) of 0.83 (95% confidence interval 0.80-0.86). For the EQ-5D the AUC was 0.77 (95% confidence interval 0.74-0.81), chance in ROC analysis is reflected by an AUC of 0.50). The WOMAC threshold for determining ‘treatment success’ with equal sensitivity and specificity was 11.5 points when scoring the WOMAC total on a 0–100 scale with high scores indicating poor outcome.

Conclusion: The WOMAC scores are highly predictive of ‘treatment success’ after TKA at a threshold of 11.5 points. The EQ-5D as a general health measure performs somewhat worse in determining treatment success after TKA. Availability of thresholds may facilitate interpretation of WOMAC scores.
Neuropathic pain after primary total hip and knee arthroplasty
Anne Lübbeke-Wolff1, Gabov Fuskas2, Domizio Suvà3, Sylvette Delavignette Gabay3, Axel Finck3, Pierre Hoffmeyer3
1Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, 2Uniklinik Balgrist, 3Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève
Introduction: A sizeable number of patients continue to suffer from pain after total joint arthroplasty (TJA). The reason for this is not well established, and the presence of persistent postoperative pain (PPSP) of neuropathic origin has been suggested. Possible mechanisms include intraoperative nerve injury, local inflammation, and central sensitization. Little is known about neuropathic pain after joint replacement. Leptin could play a role via its pro-inflammatory function. Our objectives were to (1) assess the prevalence of neuropathic pain 2 years after TJA, (2) describe its influence on pain, function, general health and satisfaction after surgery, and (3) identify preoperatively assessed predictors of PPSP of neuropathic origin.
Methods: Prospective cohort study including patients with total hip and knee arthroplasty operated upon for primary OA in a large orthopaedic center between 1 and 12/2010. Prior to surgery baseline characteristics were recorded and leptin concentrations were sampled from blood (n = 175 TJAs) and assessed using an ELISA kit. At 2 years postoperative, the following outcomes were assessed via questionnaire: (1) Presence of neuropathic pain measured with Neuropathic Pain Diagnostic Questionnaire (DN4); (2) Pain, function and general health measured with WOMAC, VAS pain, SF-12; and (3) Satisfaction.
Results: 275 TJAs were included, 161 THAs and 114 TKAs. Mean age was 72 (±9) years, mean BMI 28 kg/m², 62% were women. Neuropathic pain at 2 years postoperative was reported by 5 TKA (3.1%) and 11 TKA patients (9.6%). Its presence was associated with significantly higher residual pain levels, lower function, worse general health and low satisfaction. Eight of the 16 patients with neuropathic pain indicated they would not undergo the operation again. Prior to surgery patients with neuropathic pain (vs. those without) had a significantly higher BMI (32 vs. 27 kg/m²), higher ASA scores, more often OA of contra-lateral joints, greater pain (WOMAC pain 29 vs. 41), as well as significantly higher serum leptin concentrations (37 vs. 24 ng/ml, p = 0.020). The latter association was seen in obese (55 vs. 44 ng/ml) and non-obese patients (23 vs. 16 ng/ml).
Conclusion: Neuropathic pain is more frequent after knee than after hip arthroplasty. Its presence is associated with poor outcomes. Whether leptin is involved in the pathogenesis and/or a useful preoperative marker of neuropathic pain, merits further investigation.

The effects of end-of-range grade A+ mobilisation following acute primary TKA
Luís Carlos Pereira, Brigitte Jolles-Haeberli
CHUV
Introduction: Although the number of total knee arthroplasties (TKA) being performed, then increasing world wide, following surgery are poorly studied in the literature. Research suggests that exercise therapy and graded mobilisation are recommended as stages of osteoarthritis. If these options fail, a TKA is required. However, the literature has yet to determine best practice for immediate post operative rehabilitation. Lack of knee range of movement (ROM) is a common postoperative issue following TKA. Our study hypothesised that adding A+ graded mobilisation combined with the standard in-hospital rehabilitation protocol could improve ROM without increasing pain.
Methods: We conducted a randomised controlled trial and applied it in our university hospital. Outcome measures were performed before surgery and at the first, the third and the seventh day following TKA. 32 patients with a mean age of 71.1 years (±6.9) were allocated to two equal groups via computerized randomisation. Both groups had equal ROM and VAS at baseline. The experimental group (EG) received the standard care plus graded A+ knee stretches in flexion and extension, twice a day, using the Joint Active Systems® device. The main outcome measure was active and passive knee range of movement using the universal goniometer and VAS-pain score.
Results: There were no statistically significant differences in ROM or VAS in all measurements (p >0.05). Subgroup analysis showed that non-obese patients experienced higher VAS (p = 0.028).
Conclusion: The RCT indicated that graded A+ mobilisation combined with the standard treatment post TKA. However, there was no statistically significant improvement of adding the A+ graded mobilisation to the standard protocol, despite some increasing trends in ROM within the EG (compared to the control group). There is unanimous agreement among researchers that the rehabilitation method requires further specific, in depth investigation.
Patella Baja y Pseudo-Patella Baja after navigated standard TKA – is there a clinical relevance?
Tilmann Graulich1, Christian Spross3, Thomas Loitsch3, Stefan Rahm3, Willian Zdravkovic3, Johannes Ehrendorfer, Henrik Behrendt, St.Gallen (St.Gallen)
Introduction: Little is known about neuropathic pain after joint arthroplasty (TKA). Whereas PPB is a real shortening of the patellar tendon, PB results from an elevated joint line after TKA. However, only little data exists about their clinical relevance. It was the aim of this study to analyze a large and consistent collective of patients after TKA with special focus on the clinical effect of PB and PPB. Only our standard navigated primary TKAs (LCS, DePuy) were implanted in a single institution between 2008 and 2012 were included in this study. An independent investigator prospectively collected the clinical data (ROM, WOMAC and revision surgery). PB (modified Insall-Salvati Index (mIS)) and PPB (Blackburne-Peel Index, BP) were assessed retrospectively on lateral radiographs in 30° of flexion (pre-, postoperatively and after 1 year of follow-up (fup)). A total of 356 TKAs (331 patients (194 female), mean age 69y (48–94)) met the inclusion criteria with a complete clinical and radiographic fup of 1 year. PB was defined as mIS<1.2 and PPB as PB <0.5. The mean mIS (1.45 to 1.40, p <0.01) significantly decreased, whereas the mean WOMAC (51 to 14, p <0.01) significantly improved and the mean Flexion (115° to 114°, p = 0.53) showed no difference from preoperative to the 1-year fup. PB was found in 41 knees (11.5%), PPB in 99 (28%) knees and both were present in 28 (7.9%) knees at the 1-year fup. PB showed no significant influence on the final function, whereas patients with PPB were found to have significantly restricted Flexion (111° vs. 115°, p <0.01) and higher (worse) WOMAC score (17.7 vs. 12.2pts, p <0.01) at the 1-year fup. PB and PPB showed no significant influence on the rate of revision surgery (19 TKAs, 5.3%). In this study’s large collective of patients after primary standard navigated TKA, neither pre- nor postoperative PB showed any significant influence on the functional outcome. However, patients with PPB, defined as ≤0.5 Blackburne-Peel Index, showed significant functional restrictions at the 1-year fup. Whereas the clinical relevance of restricted Flexion is questionable, the difference in WOMAC score is supposed to be clinical relevant, as the level of minimal clinical importance difference (MIDC: 26%) has been reached. Thus, respecting this study’s findings, an elevation of the joint line resulting in a BP index of <0.5 should be avoided.

Radiographic accuracy in TKA with a CT-based patient-specific cutting block technique
Peter Koch1, Sandro Fucentese2, Markus Pisan1, Daniel Müller1
1Kantonsspital Winterthur, 2Uniklinik Balgrist, 3Hôpitaux Universitaire de Genève
Purpose: Patient-specific instrumentation (PSI) technology for the implantation of total knee arthroplasty (TKA) has a rising interest in the orthopaedic community. Data of PSI are controversially discussed. The hypothesis of this paper is that the radiological accuracy of CT-based PSI is similar to the one of navigated TKA published in literature.
Methods: Since 2010 all 301 consecutively performed PSI TKAs were included in this study. The radiological assessment consisted in a pre- and postoperative standard x-ray and long-standing x-ray. Changes from the planned to the definitively implanted component size were documented. Postoperative analysis included limb alignment and position of femoral and tibial components (for varus/varus and flexion or tibial slope).
Results: The postoperative average hip-knee-ankle angle (HKA) was 180.1 ± 2.0°. In the frontal plane a total of 12.4% of outliers >3°, for the tibial components 4.1% of outliers >3° and for the femoral components 4.8% of outliers >3° were measured. A total of 12.3% of outliers for posterior tibial slope and 9% of outliers >3° for the femoral flexion were noted. 10.6% of the 602 planned size components were adapted intraoperatively.
Conclusion: Although it is still unknown which limb axis is the correct one for the best clinical result a technology providing the aimed way in a most precise way should be chosen. CT-based PSI technology reach a better radiological accuracy than conventional instrumented TKA and similar to navigated TKA.

Radiographic accuracy in TKA with a CT-based patient-specific cutting block technique

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Early survival and radiological results of 132 consecutive cases of medial Zimmer Unicompartmental High-Flex Knee™ Arthroplasties
Joel Baur¹, Lukas Zwick², Thomas Ilchmann²,
¹Kantonsspital Baselland, Liestal
Introduction: Ideal treatment for isolated medial unicompartmental knee osteoarthritis is still a matter of debate. UKA is an established surgical option. Aim of this prospective study was to evaluate the clinical and radiological outcomes of 132 consecutively implanted medial Zimmer Unicompartmental High-Flex-Knee System (ZUK). Methods: We present a single-center cohort study from an independent teaching hospital. From September 2006 to November 2010 a total of 132 medial ZUK were implanted in 106 patients. Survival analysis was performed using Kaplan-Meier method with three different endpoints: (a) revision with exchange of any component (b) revision due to aseptic loosening and (c) a worst-case scenario counting cases with aseptic loosening and the UKA with progressive radioluencies as failure. Clinical outcome was assessed using the American Knee and the Oxford Knee Score. Radiological follow-up was done according to the American Knee Society Radiographic Evaluation and Scoring System adapted for UKA. Results: The average age at the time of surgery was 69 years (SD 9). Two patients (three UKA) died during follow-up and two UKA were lost to follow-up. Five UKA were revised to a TKA, three for aseptic loosening of the tibia, one because of an acute ACL rupture and one due to infection. Five year survival was 95.2%, 97.5% and 87.7% for the aforementioned endpoints. Component alignment was unchanged during follow-up. Radioluencies were found in 44 UKA (33%), seven (5%) had progressive radiolucent lines. Conclusion: The ZUK showed excellent clinical and radiological results in the early follow-up, comparable to data from national registers and other successful designs.

Early experience with unlinked patellofemoral resurfacing and focal medial femoral condyle resurfacing
Alain Akiki
hospital du chablais
Introduction: Chondral lesions of the knee are difficult to treat. The standard treatment consists of total knee arthroplasty (TKA) or unicompartmental knee arthroplasty (UKA). The purpose of this study is to evaluate the results of focal medial femoral inlay resurfacing and focal trochlear and patella resurfacing in the treatment of full thickness cartilage defect in the medial femoral condyle, the trochlea and the patella of the knee beyond 2 years of treatment, in patients judged too young and with limited cartilaginous lesions to benefit from a TKA or a UKA. Material and Methods: This a prospective review of our initial consecutive series of 9 patients who met the indications of focal medial osteochondral lesions and focal trochlear osteochondral lesions. There were four males and five females with an average age of 58 years (55–64 yo). All patients had knee arthroscopy 3 months prior to the intervention. The inclusion criteria were healthy external compartment, a balanced ligamentous knee with no ACL or PCL lesion, and no cartilaginous lesions on the medial tibial plateau. No tourniquet was used. Medial femoral condyle lesions were treated with the Hemicap contoured articular resurfacing implant and the patello femoral arthroplasty (PFA) with the Arthroscopic wave system. The average follow up was 26 months (24-30 months). We measured and evaluated the VAS scale, the WOMAC, the IKDC as well as physical and radiographical results. Results: No intraoperative complications occurred. All 9 patients noted the disappearance of anterior femoro patellar pain already at 3 months after surgery. All patients were satisfied with their operation at their follow-up (average 30 months) and recommend it. None had an infection or a secondary revision surgery. No loosening were noted on the radiographic follow up control. The follow up total WOMAC score averaged 91 ± 8. On IKDC examination 90% had normal results. Conclusion: Early results for focal articular medial femoral condyle resurfacing associated to a focal trochlear and patella resurfacing suggest to be an effective reconstruction option for large full thickness cartilage and osteochondral lesions of the knee in middle aged patients. This bone preserving procedure should offer more possibility for long term knee revision surgery if needed.

Lateral subvastus approach with osteotomy of the tibial tubercle – complication and functional outcome
Susanne Langen, Viljiam Zdravkovic, Henrik Behrendt
Klinik für Orthopädische Chirurgie und Traumatologie des Bewegungsapparates Kantonsspital St. Gallen
Introduction: The lateral subvastus approach is a reputable alternative to the most common medial parapatellar approach. The exposure and the positioning of the femoral component is more accurate especially in valgus deformities and limited patellar tracking. The aim of this study is to compare the complications and the functional outcome between the lateral subvastus approach with tuberosity osteotomy and the medial parapatellar approach. Method: Starting from February 2006 until August 2012 589 patients underwent primary total knee replacement due to osteoarthritis. In 91 cases we applied the lateral subvastus approach. In comparison we selected 498 cases with the medial parapatellar approach as control group, which were operated under the similar conditions. All patients' data were included in the register and controlled at 12 months postoperatively. The data set contains: demographic data, complications related to tuberosity osteotomy, Range of Motion, WOMAC Score and the Forgotten Joint Score-12. For statistical analysis descriptive analysis, paired and unpaired t-test and the chi-squared test were performed (p-value 0.05).
Results: 4 out of 91 patients received a revision because of complications related to the tuberosity osteotomy, three patients needed an additional screw fixation and one patient a revision due to failure of wound healing. There was no significant difference in any of the clinical outcome parameter one year after surgery. The WOMAC scores tend to result better in the patients with the lateral subvastus approach combined with tuberosity osteotomy. Conclusion: One year postoperatively the clinical outcome after TKR using the lateral subvastus approach combined with tuberosity tubercle osteotomy is comparable with those of the medial standard approach. The number of complications related to the osteotomy was low. We conclude that the lateral subvastus approach with osteotomy of the tibial tubercle is a good alternative especially for valgus deformities.
An alternative lateral para-patellar approach for nailing of tibia fractures

Andreas Ladumer1, Yves Acklin2, Thomas Müller1, Christoph Sommer2
1 Kantonsspital Graubünden
2 KantonsSpital St. Gallen, "Anatomisches Institut der Universität Zürich"

Introduction: Medial para-patellar or trans-patellar ligament approaches are commonly used for nail osteosynthesis in tibia fractures. The lower leg is normally in a hanging position to allow guide wire insertion or reaming of the tibia. This position however, complicates image intensifier use and also retention of the fracture reduction. The purpose of this study was to introduce a lateral para-patellar incision with horizontal positioned lower leg, facilitating reduction and image intensifier use and comparing this approach to the medial para-patellar and trans-patellar incision.

The Anatomical course of the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve with special attention to the anterior approach to hip joint

Diana Rudin1, Oliver Ullrich2, Johannes Erhardt1, Karl Grob1
1 Kantonsspital St. Gallen, "Anatomisches Institut der Universität Zürich"
2 ETH Zurich

Introduction: Commonly used in orthopedic surgery, the anterior approach to the hip joint places the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve (LFCN) at risk for iatrogenic injury. Several anatomical studies have focused on variations in the nerve as it exits the pelvis in relation to the anterior superior iliac spine (ASIS). Surgeons using the anterior approach must also be aware of variations in the course of the LFCN in the upper thigh. The aim of this cadaveric study was to demonstrate the spreading pattern of the nerve with attention to the incision for the anterior approach to the hip joint.

Methods: Dissection of the inguinal region and upper thigh were performed on twenty-eight lower extremities. The LFCN was dissected proximal to the inguinal ligament and the distal course of the nerve branches was examined in relation to the borders and sections of the tensor fasciae latae and sartorius muscles.

Results: The course of the nerve branches of the LFCN can be categorized into three different types. Sartorius-Type (n = 9): The main branch of the LFCN follows the lateral border of the sartorius and gives off smaller branches to the lateral thigh. Lateral-Type (n = 10): The main branch of the LFCN turns laterally only a few Millimetres distal to the ASIS. Broom-Type (n = 9): By giving up multiple smaller branches the LFCN spread laterally over the whole section of the tensor muscle.

Discussion: The incision used for the anterior approach to the hip joint always lead to a certain degree of damage of the LFCN. However, iatrogenic nerve damage in the Sartorius and Lateral types (2/3 of the cases) can be reduced by keeping the incision 1) 2 cm or more distal to the ASIS and 2) as much lateral as possible. Nerve damage in the broom type is frequently not avoidable and is determined by the nerve distribution.
The prevalence of abdominal hernias in patients with symptomatic femoroacetabular impingement

Francesco Dalla Riva1, Florian D. Naal1, Thomas H. Wuerz2, Beat Dutler1, Michael Leung1
1Schulthess Klinik, Zürich, 2Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, United States, 3Sonografie-Institut Glastrup GmbH, Zürich

Introduction: Various pathologies can induce groin pain, so the diagnosis of symptomatic femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) can be challenging. One differential diagnosis is abdominal hernia. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the prevalence of abdominal hernias in a consecutive cohort of FAI patients.

Methods: The cohort comprised a consecutive series of 79 patients (87 hips) with clinical symptoms and radiographic evidence of FAI. There were 37 females and 42 males. The mean age was 29.5 years (range, 12–64 years). All patients underwent an ultrasound evaluation of the involved groin. Diagnostic injections of the symptomatic hip joints were also performed. Basic demographics were collected and radiographic parameters were analyzed.

Results: Sonographic evidence of abdominal hernias was found in 34 (39%) of the hips. There were seven femoral and 24 inguinal hernias, in three cases they occurred concurrently. Six of the patients with hernias reported either no or only minimal improvement upon diagnostic intra-articular injection. Two of these patients had signs of insertion tendinopathy at the os pubis, and four underwent surgical repair of the hernia. There were no statistically significant differences regarding age, center-edge angle, acetabular version, femoral neck-shaft angle.

Conclusion: Visceral hernia is a condition of high prevalence. Hernias were more common in women, with the prevalence of hernia among women being significantly higher than in men. The hernia was responsible for patients' symptoms. In patients who do not respond to an intra-articular injection, ultrasound of the groin may therefore be an important diagnostic tool to identify abdominal hernias as source of groin pain similar to FAI symptoms. These patients may require referral to a general surgeon for further treatment.

Surgical Hip Dislocation for Treatment of Femoroacetabular Impingement: Factors Predicting 10-year Survivorship

Simon Damian Steppacher, Helen Anwander, Moritz Tannast, Klaus Arno Siebenrock

Inselspital, University of Bern

Patients with femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) often develop pain, impaired function, and progression of osteoarthritis (OA). The surgical hip dislocation with femoral neck osteochondroplasty and acetabular rim trimming can be used to treat hips with FAI. We asked whether (1) hip function and pain improves and if (2) OA progression can be prevented at 10-year follow-up. Additionally, we determined (3) survival of the native joint and (4) factors predicting conversion to total hip arthroplasty (THA), OA progression, or insufficient clinical outcome. Between July 2001 and March 2003, we performed 97 surgical hip dislocations to treat FAI in 75 patients. Mean follow-up was 10.6 years (range, 10–12 years). One patient died 8.5 years postoperatively from a cause unrelated to surgery and with an uneventful follow-up. Three patients (5 hips, 5%) were lost to follow-up after 5.2–6.9 years with a good clinical and radiographic result. We used the anterior impingement test to assess pain, the Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score to assess function, and the Tönnis grade to assess OA. The end-points were defined as the need for conversion to THA, progression of OA by at least one Tönnis grade, and/or a Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score less than 15. Survival and predictive factors were calculated using the method of Kaplan and Meier and Cox regression, respectively. The proportion of patients with anterior impingement decreased from 95% to 42% (p < 0.001). The Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score improved from a mean of 15 to 17 (p < 0.001). Eleven hips (11%) converted to THA and another 8 hips (8%) showed progression of OA. Three patients (3 hips, 3%) showed an insufficient clinical result. Survival free from any end-point at 10 years were 80% of the hips. Predictive factors for conversion to THA, progression of OA, and/or a Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score less than 15 were an excessive acetabular rim trimming, preoperatively OA (Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score >1), increased age at operation, and increased weight. At 10-year followup, 80% of patients with FAI treated with surgical hip dislocation, femoral neck osteoplasty, and acetabular rim trimming showed no THA, no progression of OA, and no insufficient clinical result. Excessive acetabular trimming, OA, increased age, and weight were associated with early failure. To prevent early deterioration of the joint, excessive rim trimming or trimming of borderline dysplastic hips has to be avoided.

Relative Neck Lengthening In Complex Proximal Femoral Deformities: Technique, Complications, And 5-year Results

Christoph E. Albers, Simon Steppacher, Moritz Tannast, Klaus Siebenrock

Inselspital Bern

Surgical hip dislocation and extended soft-tissue retinacular flap are techniques that allow a tailored treatment of complex proximal femoral deformities. Specifically, relative femoral neck lengthening (RFNL) is a new technique to address intra- and extra-articular femoroacetabular impingement. We evaluated clinical and radiographic outcome, complications, and conversion rate to total hip arthroplasty after RFNL with combined head offset osteochondroplasty and advancement of the greater trochanter in hips with complex proximal femoral deformities.

We retrospectively reviewed 42 patients (43 hips, mean age 23 years) that underwent RFNL. Underlying conditions included sequelae of Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease (40 hips, 93%), slipped capital femoral epiphysis (2 hips, 5%), and septic hip arthritis (1 hip, 2%). We obtained abductor muscle strength, Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score, limp, range of motion, and anterior and posterior impingement test. Radiographic parameters included osteoarthritis (OA), alpha angle, sagging rope sign and trochlear height. Complications were assessed using the Clavien Dindo classification modified by Sink et al. Mean follow-up was 7.8 (range, 5.1–11.1) years.

Abductor muscle strength, Merle d’Aubigné-Postel score, range of motion (internal and external rotation, and abduction) improved. Limp and the anterior and posterior impingement test were less prevalent. The alpha angle improved. Trochanteric height was normalized. The center collum diaphysial angle was unchanged. Progression to OA was not prevented. There were 7 complications (16%) requiring surgical intervention without long-term morbidity. Four hips (9%) converted to THA.

RFNL shows correction of combined intra- and extraarticular impingement in hips with complex proximal femoral deformities. Specifically, clinical symptoms in this young patient population suffering daily pain and restricted joint daily life and physical activity improved after surgery. The rate of complications was low. The benefits of this procedure in delaying severe progression of OA still have to be shown.

A Core Outcome Measures Index (COMI) for patients with femoroacetabular impingement

Franco Impellizzeri, Anne F. Mannion, Florian D. Naal, Michael Leung

Schulthess Clinic

Introduction: Patient-related outcome measures are required when evaluating the success of elective surgery. For a comprehensive evaluation, both generic and disease-specific instruments should be used; however, the use of several questionnaires increases the respondent burden and the administrative load, which impedes the systematic evaluation of outcome in clinical practice. We sought to evaluate a short, hip-oriented measure, based on the Core Outcome Measures Index (COMI), a validated instrument that requires just minutes to complete and has been used successfully in other areas of orthopedics/registries, including total hip replacement. The COMI-hip comprised just six items (pain, function, symptom-specific well-being, quality of life, and disability), extracted from established full-length questionnaires.

Methods: 159 consecutive patients undergoing surgery for femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) completed the following full-length questionnaires preoperatively and at 6 and 12 months follow-up (FU): Oxford Hip Score (OHS), WOMAC, Hip Outcome Score (HOS), SF12, WHODQL-BREF, EQ5D. The performance of the COMI-hip items (and sum-score) was compared with that of the full-length instruments.

Results: Scores for the single items of the COMI-hip correlated well with those of the full-length instruments from which they were extracted (r = −0.62 to −0.89). The COMI-hip sum-score also correlated well with the pain and function scores of the OHS and WOMAC (r = −0.70 to −0.85) and the HOS (r = −0.60 to −0.72), which was specifically important for patients suffering daily pain and compromising daily life responsiveness (Cohen’s d for effect size) of the COMI-hip sum-score was similar to that of the HOS Active of Daily Living (ADL) score (−0.76 and −0.68, respectively, at 12 months FU). Significant
correlations were also found between the change scores of the COM-hi sum-score and the change scores of the HOS ADL and HOS SF-36 Physical Function (PF) (r = 0.62 and 0.60, respectively) and 12 months FU (r = −0.69 and −0.61, respectively), illustrating the external responsiveness of the COM-hi.

**Conclusions:** The results of the current investigation showed that the COM-hi-patient assessment tool is simple and valid and responsive outcome instrument for the efficient assessment of patients undergoing surgery for FAI. It performs at least as well as the current reference instrument for FAI (the HOS). It can therefore be considered a potentially valuable instrument for routine use in both research and clinical practice.

**Methods:** We determined intralabral volumes on rotational-arthro-MRI of 50 hips with hypoplastic labra (gr. 1), 10 hips with normal labral appearance (gr. 2) and 10 hips with hypertrophic labra (gr. 3). We then measured the Neck-Shaft-Angle (NSA), the Lateral Center-Edge Angle (LCE), the Acetabular Index (AI) and the Femoral Extrusion Index (FEI) on plain ap pelvic radiographs to identify any significant differences between the 3 groups.

**Results:** Labral volumes in gr. 1 ranged from 6.2 to 16.1 mm³ (mean 12.1 mm³), in gr. 2 from 17.5 to 63.2 mm³ (mean 25.2 mm³) in gr. 2 and from 24.3 to 61.6 mm³ (mean 41.1 mm³) in gr. 3 (p < 0.001). NSA were significantly higher in gr. 3 compared to gr. 2 (p < 0.009) on the side of the affected hip. A correlation was found between NSA and AI: gr. 1, r = 0.32; gr. 2 and 1, r = 0.3; 2 and 3, LCE, AI and FEI were significantly different in gr. 3: LCE-mean value of 11° compared to 30.2° in gr. 1 and 27.6° in gr. 2; p < 0.001; AI: mean value 16.4° vs. gr. 1: 3.3°, gr. 2: 4.7°; p < 0.001; FEI: mean value 33.9% vs mean values gr. 1: 17%, gr. 2: 19%; p < 0.001). No significant difference was found between groups 1 and 2 for all measured parameters, though a tendency towards higher LCE-angles, a lower AI and FEI in gr. 1 were observed. All subsets regression analyses showed a significant correlation between all radiographic parameters and labral volume with a corrected R² value of 0.278. Stepwise linear regression analyses showed a significant correlation between LCE angle and labral volume with a corrected R² value of 0.301.

**Conclusion:** Labral volume seems to correlate with the degree of acetabular containment, although no statistically significant difference between hips with normal labra and hypoplastic labra could be identified. Consequently, the group with the hypoplastic labra had the highest mean containment of all groups, the dysplastic group the lowest, resulting in the corresponding labral volumes. Probably a higher number of patients is necessary to yield a significant difference between groups 1 and 2.

**Distraction test of the posterior superior iliac spine (PSIS) in the diagnosis of sacroiliac joint arthropathy**

**Clement Werner,** Armando Hoch, Lucienne Gautier, Matthias König, Hans Peter Simmen, Georg Osterhoff

**1. *USZ, 2 Balgrist**

**Background:** The sacroiliac joint (SIJ) is a frequently underestimated cause of lower back (LBP). A simple clinical test of sufficient validity would be desirable. The aim of this study was to evaluate the diagnostic value of a new PSIS distraction test for the clinical detection of SIJ arthropathy and to compare it to several commonly used clinical tests

**Methods:** Consecutive patients, where a SIJ pathology had been confirmed by an SIJ infiltration were enrolled (case group, 61 SIJs in 46 patients). Before infiltration, patients were tested for pain with PSIS distraction by a punctual force on the PSIS in medial-lateral direction (PSIS distraction test), pain, pelvic distraction, Gaenslen test, Thigh Thrust, and Faber (or Patrick’s) test. In addition, these clinical tests were applied to both SIJs of a population of individuals without history of LBP (control group, 64 SIJs in 32 patients).

**Results:** Within the investigated cohort, the PSIS distraction test showed a sensitivity of 100 % and a specificity of 89 % for SIJ pathology. The accuracy of the test was 94 %, the positive predictive value (PPV) was 90 % and the negative predictive value (NPV) was 100 %. Pelvic compression, pelvic distraction, Gaenslen test, Thigh Thrust, and Faber test were associated with a good specificity (>90%) but a poor sensitivity (<35%)

**Conclusions:** Within our population of patients with confirmed SIJ arthropathy the PSIS distraction test was found to be of high sensitivity, specificity and test accuracy. In contrast, common clinical tests showed a poor sensitivity. The PSIS distraction test seems to be an easy-to-perform and clinically valuable test for SIJ arthropathy.

**Key words:** sacroiliac joint pain; provocation test; joint infiltration; diagnostic value

**Periacetabular Osteotomy Does not Result in Restricted Range of Motion**

**Corinne Andrea Zumühle,** Simon Damian Steppacher, Klaus Arno Siebenrock, Young-Jo Kim, Moritz Tannast

**1. Inselspital, Universität Bern, 2. Department for Orthopädische Chirurgie und Traumatologie, Inselspital, Universität Bern, 3010 Bern, 3. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Children’s Hospital, Harvard University, Boston, USA**

A periacetabular osteotomy (PAO) allows correcting the deficient acetabular coverage in dysplastic hips. However, increasing the acetabular coverage also can result in an iatrogenic femoroacetabular impingement (FAI). We asked the following questions: (1) does a PAO result in restricted ROM compared to normal hips?; (2) does a cam-morphology of the femur negatively affect ROM following PAO; and (3) how does a concomitant intertrochanteric osteotomy affect ROM?

We performed a retrospective comparative study. The study group consisted of 20 patients (27 hips) with developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) All patients underwent PAO with a mean age at operation of 27 ± 10 (range, 13–44) years. Ten patients had a hip with high femoral antetorsion which underwent concomitant intertrochanteric varus and derotation osteotomy. All patients had pre- and postoperative CT scans. The normal group consisted of 19 patients (19 normal hips). ROM was computed using previously developed and validated software. The anterior pelvic plane was used as the pelvic reference system and for the femur the distal femoral condyles and shaft as used as reference system. Two ROM-patterns were analyzed: anterior impingement (combined flexion and internal rotation) and posterior impingement test (combined extension and external rotation).

For the anterior impingement test the dysplastic hips showed increased internal rotation (IR) compared to the normal hips (mean IR of 38° vs. 28° in 100° of flexion; p = 0.008). After PAO IR decreased and did not differ compared to the normal group (mean IR of 29° vs. 28° in 100° of flexion; p = 0.806). Hips with a cam-morphology showed a decreased IR following PAO compared to hips with a spherical head-neck offset and PAO (mean IR of 21.1° vs. 34.1° in 100° of flexion; p = 0.116). For the posterior impingement test following PAO and concomitant intertrochanteric osteotomy (IO) showed increased external rotation (ER) compared to hips with PAO without IO (mean ER of 34° vs. 15° in 5° of extension; p < 0.001). An uncorrected cam-labrum had no impact on ROM, but a cam-labrum can result in restricted IR following PAO. Therefore, IR should be assessed intraoperatively after acetabular realignment and if restricted IR is present an arthroscopy with offset creation is indicated. A valgus hip with high femoral antetorsion can lead to restricted ER following PAO. A concomitant derotational and varus IO could normalize ER.

**Restricted Range of Motion**

**Patrick Studer, Nicolas Bless, Norbert Suhm, Qing Wang, Rachel Rosenthal, Marcel Jakob**

**Universitätsspital Basel**

**Background:** Patients suffering from trochanteric fractures are most likely to experience a drop in the level of mobility and home independence irrespective of the surgical technique used for stabilization. The importance of the greater trochanter to the ability to walk is well accepted, but the influence of a dislocated or malunited greater trochanter fragment in a trochanteric fracture on patient's mobility is not known. The aim of this study is to determine if there is an association between the greater trochanter position and the level of mobility following internal fixation of trochanteric fractures.

**Methods:** Between January 2011 and March 2012, all patients treated for a fragility trochanteric fracture were prospectively assessed for their mobility before and one year after fracture treatment using the Parker mobility score. In a multivariate analysis, the influence of a dislocated or malunited greater trochanter on patient's mobility at one-year follow-up was assessed, adjusted for age, gender, body mass index, Charlson comorbidity index, AO fracture classification, and Parker mobility score before fracture.
Results: In the study period, 133 patients with a median interquartile range (IQR) age of 85 years (79–91) were operated, out of which 105 (79%) were female. During follow-up, 66 patients had a displaced or malunited greater trochanter fragment. One year mortality rate was twenty-four per cent (n = 32). The median (IQR) Parker mobility score before fracture and at one-year follow-up was 9 (4–9) and 7 (3–9) in patients without, and 8 (4–9) and 5 (2–5) in patients with, displacement or malunion of the greater trochanter. In multivariable analysis, a malunited or displaced greater trochanter was significantly associated with a lower Parker mobility score (r2.09, 95% confidence interval: 2.75, 1.44, p < 0.01).

Conclusion: Greater trochanter position following internal fixation of trochanteric fractures has a major impact on the mobility of hip and home independence. Therefore, surgeons have to focus on the adequate reduction and stabilization of this fragment during internal fixation. Moreover, future implant developments are needed in conjunction with existing nails to allow minimal invasive reduction and stable fixation of this key fragment.

Extracortical plate fixation with new plate inserts and cerclage wires for the treatment of periprosthetic hip fractures

Johannes Dominik Bastian1, Andre Butscher2, Gianni Bigolin2, Matthias A. Zumstein1, Hubert P. Nolte1

1 Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, Inselspital, University of Bern, Switzerland, 2 RMS Foundation, Bettlach, Switzerland, 3 Sonnenhof, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Bern, Switzerland

Introduction: Fixation of periprosthetic hip fractures with intracortical anchorage might be impossible in cases with bulky implants and or poor bone stock.

Methods: Rotational stability of new plate inserts with extracortical anchorage for cerclage fixation was measured and compared to the stability found using a standard technique in a biomechanical setup using a tension band load in a four-point bending machine. In a second setup, transverse fractures were fixed distally using screws and proximally by wire cerclages attached to the plates using “new” (extracortical anchorage) or “standard” (intracortical anchorage) plate inserts. In a consecutive series of 18 patients (18F; mean age 81yrs, range 55–92) with periprosthetic hip fractures (10 Type B1, 8 Type C-Vancouver) treated with the new device between 07/2003 and 07/2010 the time to fracture consolidation and occurrence of complications were assessed.

Results: The “new” device showed a higher rotational stability than the “standard” technique (p < 0.001). Fractures showed radiologic consolidation after 14 ± 5 weeks (mean ± SD) postoperatively in patients. Revision surgery was necessary in 4 patients, unrelated to the new technique.

Conclusion: In periprosthetic hip fractures in which fixation with intracortical anchorage using conventional means might be difficult due to bulky bone and/or poor bone stock, the new device might be an addition to already existing implants.

Efficiency of a new clinical pathway for proximal femoral fractures

Nicole Fleury, Francois Chevalley, Alain Farron, Brigitte M. Jolles

CHUV

Background: The number of hip fractures is still increasing in relation to the increase of the average age of the population. Such patients have a high risk of postoperative complications and the length of stay can be in this case even longer with a high risk of death or institutionalization. In 2011, we established a clinical pathway (CP) to improve the qualitative and quantitative efficiency of the management of proximal femoral fractures in elderly patients. The goal of this study was to evaluate the CP using clinical, process and financial indicators.

Methods: All patients aged 65 and over, arriving at the emergency department with a fracture of the proximal femur after a fall and having surgical treatment were included. Outcomes measured included performance indicators: the clinical indicators were nosocomial pneumonia, or a post-operative sepsis on the third postoperative day, and percentage of patients covering at least 75% of their nutritional needs; the process indicator was the time between arrival at the emergency department and surgery; the financial indicators were the imaging costs and the number of days spent in the hospital.

Results: From 2011 to 2013, 669 patients were included in the CP. We observed that the average length of stay in hospital decreased from 16 days to 11 days when the CP was used and it stabilized afterwards. In terms of time between arrival in the emergency department and the start of surgery, the goal of the CP was to operate at least 90% of patients within 48 hours. In 2013, this goal was achieved for 95% of the patients. We observed also an improvement of the clinical indicators and the imaging costs. We also observed that the deployment of a CP demanded a concerted action and effective cooperation between different health professionals.

Finally the communication between various clinicians has increased and is now perpetuated through regular review meetings of the CP.

Conclusion: CP of proximal femoral fracture patients allowed to improve qualitative and quantitative efficiency of the management regarding clinical, process and financial factors. We intend to extend CP to others frequent musculoskeletal pathologies.

Long-term follow-up after Surgical Hip Dislocation for the Treatment of Acetabular Fractures

Pascal Cyrill Haefeli, Marius Johann Baptiste Keel, Klaus Arno Siebenrock, Montz Tannast

INSELSPITAL, Universitätsspital Bern

Introduction: Surgical hip dislocation allows safe visual inspection of the acetabulum and the femoral neck in acetabular fracture surgery (in contrast to the classic Kocher-Langenbeck approach), this enables the open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) of the acetabular fragments under direct vision, exclusion of intracortical screw placement and assessment of the quality of reduction, concomitant fixation of femoral head fractures. The aims of this study were to (1) calculate the cumulative 10-year survivorship of the hip and (2) to calculate predictive factors predicting an unfavorable outcome.

Methods: We performed a clinical follow-up study of 61 consecutive patients undergoing ORIF for displaced acetabular fractures (24 posterior wall, 18 transverse & posterior wall, 9 transverse, 3 T-shaped, 7 others) with a mean follow up of 16.2 ± 6.3 years. Clinical grading was assessed using the Merle d’Aubigné score modified for acetabular fractures. Radiographic grading of osteoarthritis was assessed according to Koval, Kandier–Nawzik’s and a multivariate Cox-regression analysis was performed using the following endpoints: total hip arthroplasty and a Merle d’Aubigné score of less than 13.

Results: (1) The 10-year cumulative survivorship of the hip was 91% (95% confidence interval 84–93%). 22 patients reached an endpoint.

Conclusion: Comparison of our results with these often challenging acetabular fractures with the literature, surgical hip dislocation can provide predictable and even superior long term results.

Reconstruction of AAOs Type III and IV Acetabular Defects with the Ganz Reinforcement Ring

Lukas Kraer1, Mohammad K. Abdellah2, Klaus A. Siebenrock2, Frank M. Klenke2, 1 INSELSPITAL Bern

Introduction: Large acetabular defects and pelvic discontinuity are complex problems in revision total hip arthroplasty (THA). Acetabular reconstructions are associated with an increased risk of aseptic loosening, infection, disarticulation, and nerve injury. Treatment options include reinforcement rings, plating of the anterior and/or posterior column, bone grafting, triflange acetabular components, porous metal implants, and combinations of the above.

Methods: 47 reconstructions of large acetabular defects and pelvic discontinuity (AAOs type III and IV defects) using the Ganz reinforcement ring were retrospectively reviewed after a mean follow-up of 15 months (12–18 months). Clinical grading was assessed using the Merle d’Aubigné scores modified for acetabular reconstructions. In type III defects, eight out of 20 reconstructions failed due to aseptic loosening (n = 4), non-union (n = 2), and deep infection (n = 2) (Kaplan-Meier survival type III vs. type IV: p = 0.002). Nine additional reoperations had to be performed in 6 hips following type III defect reconstructions. In type IV defects, eleven additional reoperations in 6 hips were carried out: Average HHS and Merle d’Aubigné scores of the surviving reconstructions at follow-up were similar in both groups (type III: HHS: 80 (45 – 99), Merle d’Aubigné: 14 (9 – 18); type IV: HHS: 75 (36 – 97), Merle d’Aubigné: 14 (9 – 16)). Of those reconstructions that survived, 23 out of 24 after type IV defects and 12 cups after pelvic discontinuity did not show radiographic signs of loosening.

Conclusion: THA revision surgery in patients with pelvic discontinuity involves a significant risk of failure and severe complications. The failure rates found in the present study are similar to that reported in the literature when reinforcement rings are used for type III as well as type IV defects. However, the functional results of successful reconstructions are satisfactory in this elderly population. Yet, porous metal implants may be a favorable alternative especially for the treatment of type IV defects.
Potential risk to the superior gluteal nerve during the anterior approach to the hip joint
Karl Grob1, Mirjana Manestar2
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 2Anatomisches Institut der Universität Zürich

Introduction: The superior gluteal nerve (SGN) has been well described in the literature. Recent reports on the SGN have focused on the lateral approach to hip arthroplasty, its potential dangers and safe zones. The aim of this cadaveric study was to demonstrate the innervation of the SGN in the tensor fascia latae muscle (T) in relation to the anterior approach for hip arthroplasty.

Methods: Nineteen cadaveric lower limbs were used for the study. With special attention to the innervation of the tensor fascia latae muscle (T) macro-dissection of the SGN was performed. The terminal nerve branches to T in relation to the anterior approach were studied and its distance to the ascending branch of the lateral femoral circumflex artery (LFCA) and the anterior superior iliac spine were measured.

Results: Terminal branches of the inferior branch of the SGN innervate the tensor fascia latae muscle in the deep surface in the middle of the muscle. There is little variation in the mode of entrance of its nerve of supply. In 95% one or two terminal nerve branches entered the muscle with its artery supply, the ascending branch of LFCA.

Discussion: The anterior approach to the hip joint requires the ligation or coagulation of the ascending branch of the LFCA very close to the point where the nerve branches enter T. This study highlights the risks of damaging the nerve to T during 1. Process of reaming while preparing the femur for insertion of the prosthesis. 2. Placement of retractors during surgery and 3. Coagulation of the ascending branch of the LFCA. The results will provide surgeons with an accurate description on the proximity of the nerve during surgery.

Implant failure after biodegradable screw fixation in osteochondritis dissecans in skeletally immature patients
Carlo Camathias1, Michael T. Hirschmann2, Erich Rutzi2, Reinald Brunner1, Ulas Gögüs1, Patrick Vavken3
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 2Anatomisches Institut der Universität Zürich, 3Sektion Chirurgie, Universitätsklinikum Zürich-Irchel

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to prospectively assess the incidence of bioabsorbable screw failure in skeletally immature patients treated for OCD of the knee. The second purpose was to assess implant degradation, focusing on differential break-down of the intrasosseous and the extraosseous parts of the screw.

Methods: 24 patients (30 knees) with MRI-confirmed OCD were fixed with biodegradable screws, mean follow up was 26 months. MRI scans were performed at 6 and 12 months to assess screw integrity at head and body of the screw. The angle between the surface of the head and the body of the screw was measured, with >90° interpreted as "implant fracture". The incidence of screw fracture and revision surgery was calculated based on patient-years (PY).

Results: 18 (14 with diameter 2.7 mm) of 61 screws (29.5%) showed a signs of impending screw failure on MRI. 7 screws (all 2.7 mm) in five patients were stated as "implanting fracture". The implant failed completely in four patients with brakage of 4 out of 6 screws, 3 cases were late failures after >6 month. The incidence of screw failure was 0.09/PY with 9 patients (37.5%) leading to an incidence of surgical revision of 0.08/PY with 4 patients out of 24 (16.7%).

Conclusion: Screw breakage is a surprisingly frequent failure in resorbable OCD fixation in skeletally immature patients. MRI data revealed differential decomposition of the screw within and outside of bone as a major cause. Importantly, late failure due to chemical decomposition was three times more likely than early failure due to mechanical stress, and independent from defect size and classification. Thus it should be ruled out in all patients returning because of mechanical symptoms, even if the OCD is perfectly healed.

Correction of multiplanar limb deformities with an intramedullary distraction nail and a plate – a new technique
Ulrich Lenze, Christina Steiger, Andreas Heinrich Krieg
Universitäts-Kinderklinik für Kinderorthopädie Baden (UKKBB)

Introduction: Intramedullary leg lengthening is an accepted alternative to external fixators. The use of rigid nails, however, is limited by anatomical preconditions. Therefore, to date, the use of external fixation is sometimes inevitable. We report on a series of patients with a combined limb length discrepancy and complex axis deformity, who were treated exclusively with internal devices.

Methods: Between October 2008 and November 2011 six patients with a median leg length discrepancy of 37 mm (range 2.5–5.1 mm) and a complex deformity (3 femora, 3 tibiae) were treated with a fully implantable motorized nail and a locking plate. All patients were evaluated regarding the postoperative leg length, axis alignment, functional outcome, lengthening indices and complications.

Results: In all cases a successful leg lengthening (within 5 mm of desired length) was performed. Additionally, axis alignment with physiological anatomical and mechanical axis angles or symmetrical in relation to the contralateral leg was achieved. The median distraction index was 1.0, the maturation index 22.8 and the consolidation index 32.1. The functional outcome was excellent. In total two complications were observed, one non-union and one loss of leg length after an early locking screw removal in an external hospital. After revision surgery an uncomplicated healing was achieved in both patients.

Conclusion: The fully implantable motorized lengthening nail in combination with a locking plate is an efficient method for treating limb length discrepancies and even complex deformities of the lower leg. However, the reported technique puts high demands on preoperative planning, precise operative technique and surgeon's skills.

Trigonometric analysis of deviation in the mechanical axis induced by temporary hemiepiphysiodesis for lower extremity angular deformities
Davide Salvo, Amira Dhouib, Georgios Kampouroglou, Dimitri Ceroni
Paediatric Orthopedic Service, University Hospitals of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 14, Switzerland

Introduction: Angular correction with growth modulation around the knee also modifies the alignment between the tibial tubercle and the trochlear groove (TT-TG). This study's aim was to predict the predicted change of the TT-TG distance that occurs during femoral or tibial hemiepiphysiodesis.

Methods: In this study, we developed a trigonometric formula to calculate the predicted change of the TT-TG distance that occurs during hemiepiphysiodesis around the knee. We used the planned angular correction, as well as the length between the physis (both distal femoral and proximal tibial) and the insertion of the patellar tendon of the tibial tubercle. The distances between the physis and cranial insertion of the patellar tendon on the tibial tubercle were extracted from MRI carried out in our institution from January 2008 to December 2013.

Results: We retrospectively reviewed 541 knee MRI scans performed on children and teenagers. Statistical analysis demonstrated that the difference of the femoral phys on the tibial tubercle (FP-TT) increased with age in both genders (for females, rho = 0.122, p = 0.044; for males, rho = 0.281, p < 0.001). Conversely, there was a statistically significant decrease in the distance between the tibial physis on the tibial tubercle (TP-TT) with age in male subjects (rho = -0.193, p = 0.002), whereas there was a statistically non-significant decrease in female subjects (rho = -0.100, p = 0.098). However, the differences in FP-TT and TP-TT distances between all groups had very few effects on the translation of the tibial tubercle, and may be neglected when predicting the modification of TT-TG distance.

Conclusions: This study demonstrated that TT-FP and TT-TP distances vary very little with sex and age during growth. We were thus able to predict that, during distal femoral hemiepiphysiodesis, for every one degree of angular correction there was a 1 mm simultaneous lateral or medial transfer of the tibial tubercle. Furthermore, during proximal tibial hemiepiphysiodesis, an angular correction of 8° will roughly translate into a simultaneous 1 mm transfer of the tibial tubercle.
Moderate femoral varisation osteotomy in combination with pelvis osteotomy for the treatment of hip subluxation and dislocation in cerebral palsy

Davide Salvo, Hanspeter Huber, Stefan Dierauer
Kinderspital Zürich

Introduction: Restoratiok of hip stability in cerebral palsy patients with severe acetabular dysplasia necessitates femoral varus derotational osteotomy (VDRO) or pelvic osteotomy, or the combination of both. At our institution a moderate variation with a planned post-operative CCD of at least 130° or higher is the standard procedure of VDRO in order to maintain good hip abduction and therefore reduce the amount of additional soft tissue surgery, especially tenotomy of the adductors. Furthermore, to prevent common complications of VDRO such as avascular necrosis of the femoral head or varus malunion. The purpose of this study is to review the results of this moderate correction in VDRO in combination with pelvic osteotomy in patients with cerebral palsy.

Material & Methods: Patients with cerebral palsy who had been treated at our institution between 2005 and 2010 for hip dysplasia, subluxation or dislocation with a VDRO in combination with a pelvic osteotomy were reviewed. All patients had a minimum follow up of 2 years.

Results: 41 patients with a mean follow up of 4.5 years were included, 21 males and 20 females. Mean age at time of operation was 9.2 years. 27% (n = 11) patients were walkers (GMFCS I, II or III), 73% (n = 30) non-walkers (GMFCS IV or V). All together 59 hips were treated with both, femoral and pelvic osteotomy, both hips in 18 patients, one hip in 23 patients, whereof in 13 patients the contralateral hip was treated with VDRO alone.
Results enclose only hips treated with VDRO in combination with pelvic osteotomy: The mean pre-operative CCD angle of 152° was reduced to an average post-operative value of 136°. An additional soft-tissue release was performed in 11 hips: 7 adductor tenotomies if intra-operative adduction was <20° and in 4 hips a release of the abductors. Reimers Migration Index (RFM) could be improved from a mean of 63% pre-operatively to 3.4% post-operatively. At latest follow up all patients were painfree. The mean RMI 10.6%. Results were good in 97% (n = 57) with centered, stable hips (RFM <30%), fair in one with a subluxated hip (RFM 42%) and poor in one requiring revision pelvic osteotomy in case of ventral instability.

Conclusion: Our results show that even moderate varisation in VDRO in combination with pelvic osteotomy leads to good midterm results with stable, painfree hips with low complication rates, even in the severely involved spastic quadriplegic patients.

Primary subacute haematogenous osteomyelitis in children; towards a new bacteriological reality?

Davide Salvo, Dhouib Chargui Amira, Merlini Laura

Introduction: Our results show that even moderate varisation in VDRO could be used for assessment of adequate correction and healing in symptomatic patients with varus aligned knees – a study using SPECT/CT

FM80

Conclusion:

FM81

The purpose of this study was to prospectively evaluate the outcome, in particular the SPECT/CT bone tracer uptake (BTU) after high tibial osteotomy (HTO) due to symptomatic varus malalignment. It was the hypothesis that the BTU after HTO decreases in the medial compartments, clinical correction and the degree of correction correlates with BTU and asymptomatic patients after HTO reveal a significantly decreased BTU in the medial subchondral areas.

Methods: Twenty-two consecutive patients with 23 knees undergoing medial openning-wide HTO for medial compartment overloading were assessed pre-and postoperatively (12 and/or 24 months) using Tc-99m-HDP-SPECT/CT including our 4D-SPECT/CT protocol. BTU was quantified and localized to specific biomechanically relevant joint areas. Maximum absolute and relative values (mean ± standard deviation, median and range) for each area were recorded. Pre- and postoperative mechanical alignment was measured. At 24 months after HTO the WOMAC score was used.

Results: A significant decrease of BTU in the medial subchondral zones after HTO was found (preoperatively to 12 and 24 months postoperatively, p <0.01). BTU normalized in all asymptomatic patients within 24 months. This decrease was partly seen in the lateral compartments, but significantly higher in the medial compartments (p <0.001). A significant increase of the BTU was noted in zones directly adjacent to the plate or within the osteotomy zone (p <0.01). Decreased BTU was observed in osteotomy zones at 24 months postoperatively following higher uptake values at 12 months postoperatively. The average vaige correction of the tibial joint angle was 5.9 ± 2.77°. Less stiffness correlated significantly with a higher decrease in BTU (p <0.05). Higher postoperative BTU significantly correlated with more pain (p <0.05). No statistical significant associations between BTU and alignment correction were found.

Conclusion: In patients with medial compartment overloading due to varus malalignment BTU shows a significant decrease in BTU in the medial joint compartments. SPECT/CT BTU patterns and intensity in these patients pre- to 12 and 24 months postoperatively were seen. These correlated significantly with pain and stiffness. Hence, SPECT/CT could be used for assessment of adequate correction and healing after HTO.

Finite Element Analysis of Postero-medial Opening Wedge Osteotomy of the Proximal Tibia undercutting the Tibial Tuberous distally

Hans Ulrich Staeubli

Introduction: Knee preserving osteotomies of the proximal tibia are underused. Correcting a deformity in one plane, may induce an inadvertent alteration in another plane. Relative length of the patellar ligament may be influenced by the type of osteotomy placed at the level or above the tibial tubercle.

Material and Methods: We used the method of finite element analysis assigning 150'000 tetrahedral elements to the proximal tibia. We simulated three variations of medial opening wedge osteotomies of the proximal tibia undercutting the tibial tubercle distally. We designed three models of oblique ascending medial wedge osteotomies Models A, B and C and we applied three load steps: postero-medial gap opening, extension and external torsion.

Results: of finite element analyses of an oblique ascending, postero-medial opening wedge osteotomy revealed considerable plane realignment in all models. By undercutting the tibial tubercle distally, a decrease in patellar height was avoided in all models. In model A and B an increase of the posterior tibial slope occurred. By applying a posterior directed force, to the anterior aspect of the proximal tibia in
the sagittal plane, an increase of the posterior tibial slope was avoided but an increase in internal tibial torsion occurred. By controlling tibial torsion in the transverse plane, such as in model C, inadvertent tibial torsion was avoided. The simulation of two pairs of parallel running K wires, monitoring the correction in all planes, facilitated the understanding of opening a postero-medial gap during the obliteration of a medial opening wedge osteotomy.

Conclusions: Modeling the effects on stress strain behavior at the pivot point, in the cancellous bone of the lateral tibial condyle and adjacent to the tibial tubercle, allowed us to simulate and design a safe knee preserving realignment procedure. Finite element modeling allowed us to increase precision by simulating a multiaxial knee preserving ostectomy of the proximal tibia, respecting patellar height and controlling the posterior tibial slope in the sagittal plane whilst avoiding inadvertent internal torsion in the transverse plane.

Trochleaplasty – functional and subjective results

Jürgen Hering, Jürg Lüthi, Jan Rosenkranz, Roberto Sossai, Heinz Bereiter, Urs Müller

1 Klinik für Orthopädie, Kantonsspital Luzern, 2 Klinik für Chirurgie, Kinderspital Luzern, 3 Kantonsspital Graubünden Chur

Introduction: Dislocation of the patella represents a common injury of the knee (incidence 5.8/100,000). Recurrent events are a reason for pain, significant loss of physical function, activity and quality of life. Patellofemoral instability is a multifactorial clinical problem. Besides passive (patellofemoral ligaments) and active (quadriceps femoris) stabilizers the congruence of the patella and trochlear groove (static stabilizer) is a central factor. Dejour estimates the presence of trochlear dysplasia in up to 85% of patients with recurrent dislocations. Aim of our study was to assess the functionality, satisfaction and patellar stability after trochleaplasty by retrospective survey.

Methods: Between 10/2004 and 11/2012 we performed trochleaplasty on 77 knees (66 patients). Indication was recurrent patellar dislocation and existence of trochlear dysplasia at least Dejour type B. Preoperatively we classified the degenerative changes of patellar cartilage as well as trochlear dysplasia and Eaton-Deschamp index on strictly lateral radiographs. Every patient was examined clinically and radiologically 1 year after surgery. With a minimum follow-up of 1 year (12–109 months) we started a retrospective subjective evaluation by questionnaire for quality of life (SF-36), activity (Tegner-Score) and functional impairment (Lysholm-Score).

Results: 42 knees (39 patients) were included into the analysis. 31% (13/42) had undergone previous surgery. The average of Tegner’s activity score was 4.95 points (3–9), Lysholm score reached 131.3 points (38–190) with 20.3% (17/42) excellent and 57.1% (24/42) good and excellent results. The average value for physical health component summary score (PCS) and mental health component summary score (MCS) in SF-36 showed only little variation compared to German norm values (PCS: male 49.8, female 49.6; MCS: male 51.1, female 52.5). We had no recurrence of dislocation while 1 patient reported about slight tendency for subluxation. Complications: 1x removal of hematoma (3 days after surgery), no problem with wound healing, no infection.

Conclusions: Trochleaplasty represents a demanding surgical procedure for reconstruction of the trochlea’s morphology and the stability of the patellofemoral joint. Recurrent patellar dislocations can be reliably avoided while activity and quality of life can be preserved with only little or moderate functional impairment in most of the patients.

The Tibial-Tubercle Trochlear Groove Distance in Patients with Trochlear Dysplasia – are we getting it right?

Philippe M. Tscholl, Alexander Antoniades, Tobias Dietrich, Sandra F. Fucetese

1 Klinik für Orthopädie, Klinikum Balgrist, 2 Klinik für Radiologie, Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: The tibial-tubercle-trochlear groove (TT-TG) measures the distance between the deepest point of the trochlea and the tibial tubercle and is one of the main contributing factors of lateral patellar instability. A majority of patients with lateral patellar dislocation, however, have some sort of trochlear dysplasia, hence a proximally flat trochlea. This fact might bias the TT-TG distance, since the trochlear groove is not perpendicular but running laterally as it merges. We therefore hypothesize that the TT-TG might be underestimated in patients with trochlear dysplasia, which might be a source of technical error in tibial tubercle osteotomy.

Methods: 50 patients with trochlear dysplasia (TD, 23.3 years ± 8.9) and 52 aged and gender matched patients serving as control group (CG, 21.9 years ± 7.4) without history of lateral patellar dislocation or radiocentric signs of trochlear dysplasia were assigned for MRI measurements.

The TT-TG was measured on axial MRI slices in all patients, measuring the distance between the most proximal trochlear deepening to the femoro-tibial joint line of 20.6 mm (range: 10.3 to 30.9, median: 20.5) and 33.8 mm (range: 25.4 to 41.1, median: 33.6; p < 0.001), respectively.

TT-TG measured at 20 mm and 15 mm above joint line for CG was 1.8 mm (95% CI 1.34 to 2.28, p < 0.001) and 2.43 mm (95% CI 1.87 to 3.00, p < 0.001) higher compared to the most proximal measurement. Inter-rater reliability was excellent using intra-class correlation for single measurements (p < 0.05).

Conclusion: TT-TG is underestimated in patients with trochlear dysplasia. This should be taken into consideration when planning tibial tubercle corrective osteotomy.
Effect of microfracture on the immediate postoperative properties of the subchondral bone plate. A biomechanical study.

Artur Kröll1, Paul Marks2, Mark Hurtig3
1Uniklinik Balgrist, Zürich, 2University of Toronto ON, Canada, 3University of Guelph ON, Canada

Introduction: While Steadman's microfracture is still considered gold standard in the treatment of small unifocal cartilage defects, several study groups report a considerable early to long-term failure rate. The presented study discusses iatrogenic disruption of subchondral bone plate stability as potential early mode of failure. The biomechanical effect of microfracture on the subchondral layer was simulated. Special regard was given to the question, if increasing microfracture hole angulation will lead to further weakening of bony support.

Methods: Microfracture of femoral condylar bone cubies was performed according Steadman's technical protocol procured from fresh-frozen human cadaveric knees. Holes were angulated perpendicularly to the surface (group 1), as well as with 15°/30° deviation angles (group 2/3), with 8 specimens in every group. Repetitive non-destructive and consecutive destructive compressive testing was performed in a Mach-1 Micromechanical Testing System (Biomomentum Inc., Laval, Canada) in order to simulate protected postoperative gait, as well as load to failure. Radiographic changes were analyzed by Micro-CT (GE Medical Systems, London, Canada) before and after every biomechanical test run.

Results: Microfracture lowered subchondral stiffness for all specimens in non-destructive testing (pre μfx E0.3% 347.4 ± 347.4 N/mm; post μfx E0.3% 528.0 ± 334.8 N/mm; p <0.001). Variation of hole angles, however, failed biomechanical properties in all groups (p = 0.774). Micro-CT showed only two failures by crack propagation through a microfracture hole in destructive testing (25% end strain), while all other specimens had failed by lateral expansion.

Conclusion: As expected, biomechanical analysis after microfracture supports early weakening of the subchondral bone layer. Increasing hole angulation, however, did not lead to further compromise of subchondral integrity.

Risk Factors for Patellar Instability in Patients with Patellar Tendon Partial Tear (Jumper’s Knee) – an MRI-based study

Philipp M. Tschiöhl1, Roland M. Biedert2, Florian Wanivenhaus3
1Uniklinik Balgrist, Zürich, 2University of Toronto ON, Canada, 3University of Guelph ON, Canada

Introduction: Patellar tendon partial tears (PTPT) at the proximal patellar tendon insertion are an overuse condition and a potentially career-ending injury to the knee. Therapeutic strategies are not yet known. We therefore presented study discusses iatrogenic disruption of subchondral bone.

Methods: The MRI of 47 patients with PTPT (30.8 ± 11.4 years) were analysed for trochlear geometry (trochlear facet ratio (TFR), lateral tilt, lateral condylar index (LCI)), patellar position (Patellatrochlear Index (PTI), Insall-Salvati (IS), Caton-Deschamp (CD), and Tilt), and tibial tubercle trochlear groove distance (TT-TG). 100 age and gender matched patients (29.3 ± 9.3 years) served as controls (CG).

Results: Measurements for trochlear geometry differ significantly between the PTPT and CG for LI (19.0° vs. 16.2°; p <0.05) and TFR (0.39 vs. 0.48; p <0.001), however not for the LCI (p = 0.61) and trochlear angle (p = 0.92). TFR was pathologic in 53.3% of the patients with PTPT, and in 23% of the controls (p <0.001). The patella in PTPT is significantly higher than in controls (PTI: 0.326 vs. 0.37; p <0.001; and IS: 1.19 vs. 1.10 p <0.02). In PTPT, PTI was pathologic in 31.9% (controls 11%, p <0.01) and for IS in 42.6% (controls 26%, p <0.05). The TT-TG distance is also increased (12.0 mm vs. 10.1 mm, p <0.01), however pathologic in only one patient. Overall inter-rater reliability was excellent using intra class correlation for single measures (p >0.9).

Conclusion: PTPT is associated with patella alta, decreased medial trochlear angle, and increased TT-TG. Further studies are requested to determine whether a clinical relevant patellar instability is more likely to be present in patients with PTPT.

Biomechanical Comparison of All-inside Meniscal Repair Devices with their Matched Inside-Out Suture Repair: Introducing 10.000 and 100.000 Loading Concepts

Claudio Rosso1, Sebastian Müller2, Tanja Schwenk1, Simon Zimmermann3, Michael de Wit4, Victor Valderrabano2
1Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsspital Basel, 2Department Traumatologie, Universitätsspital Basel, 3Harvard Medical School, Boston, Institute for Medical and Analytical Technologies, University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland

Introduction: To date, inside-out suture repair techniques are still considered to be the gold standard for treatment of medial meniscal tears. However, all-inside repair devices experience an increase in popularity because of their lower complication rate, decreased morbidity and easier surgical handling compared to inside-out techniques. Until now, biomechanical tests have only been performed up to 1000 cycles, corresponding to only a single day of walking. In this present study, for the first time, we introduced cyclic loading up to 100.000 cycles, comparable to a rehabilitation phase of 6–8 weeks. We hypothesized that suture-controls would show superior response to cyclic loading and load-to-failure compared to their matched all-inside devices.

Methods: Buckle-handle tears in 72 porcine menisci were repaired using the all-inside repair devices Orthocron and Fast-Fix 360 as well as the corresponding inside-out suture repairs Orthocord 2-0 and Ultrastrand 2-0 in a single vertically-oriented manner. Initial displacement, displacement after cyclic loading (100, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000 and 100000 cycles), ultimate load-to-failure, mode of failure and construct stiffness were recorded.

Results: There were no significant differences between the groups concerning initial displacement and displacement after cyclic loading. The Orthocron repair demonstrated the highest load-to-failure force (151.3 ± 21.5 N) and was significantly stronger than all the other constructs (Orthocord 2-0, 105 ± 20.4 N; Ultrastrand 2-0, 93 ± 22.5 N; Fast-Fix 360, 76 ± 14.2 N; p <0.001 for all). The Orthocord vertical inside-out mattress repair was significantly stronger than the Fast-Fix 360 repair (p = 0.003). The Orthocron (30.8 ± 3.5 N/mm) showed a significantly higher stiffness compared to the Ultrastrand 2-0 (22.9 ± 6.9 N/mm, p <0.001) and Fast-Fix 360 (23.7 ± 3.9 N/mm, p = 0.001). The predominant mode of failure was suture failure. Conclusion: Even after 100,000 cycles of cyclic loading (representing about 8 weeks of rehabilitation), all-inside repair devices achieved comparable biomechanical results to the corresponding inside-out suture techniques. These findings add in addition with the apparent advantages of the all-inside repair techniques, such as lower complication rate and easier surgical handling, show the non-inferiority to vertical inside-out repairs.

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Management of concomitant MCL lesion in athletes with ACL rupture. Introduction and results of a new treatment concept.

Fabian Blanke1, Jochen Paul2, Patrick Vavken1, Geert Pagensten3, Victor Valderrabano4, Martin Majewski5
1Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, 2Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Hospital Basel, 3Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Hospital Basel / Hospital Obergaduzen

Introduction: Anteromedial knee injury (AMKI) with rupture of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and concomitant lesion of medial collateral ligament (MCL) is common in athletes. Anteromedial rotatory instability (AMRI) is a frequent complication. While surgical treatment of ACL rupture and different MCL lesions according to a new treatment concept to develop classification and treatment algorithm in this kind of knee injury.

Methods: In this study 30 recreational athletes with ACL-Injury and concomitant MCL lesion were treated according to a distinct treatment concept. Patients were classified in six different types of concomitant MCL lesion depending on grade of MCL lesion and presence of AMRI. According to degree of MCL lesion patients were primarily divided in injury types I-III. Depending on presence of AMRI these types were subclassified in a-type injury or b-type injury. Final classification and surgical indication were determined after six weeks of rehabilitation. All patients received ACL reconstruction. In patients with injury type Ia, Ib and Ila MCL lesion was treated conservatively, in injury type IIb, IIIa and IIIb MCL lesion was treated by surgical treatment We evaluated standardized knee examination according to international knee documentation committee (IKDC), excessive medial knee opening (EMKO), presence of AMRI and Lysholm score both preoperative and after 6, 16 weeks and 8 months postoperative.
Knee dislocation and associated popliteal artery injury
Mouas Jammal1, Nicolas Tebib2, Sebastien DEGLIS1, Jean-Marc Corpataux, Olivier Borens1

Introduction: Although knee dislocations (KD) are rare, associated vascular lesions are common. They can lead to limb loss or even be life-threatening if not discovered and treated. During a dislocation of the knee, the popliteal artery but also the collaterals can be injured and this lesion can lead to an acute and drastic limb ischemia. Therefore, quick diagnosis and prompt treatment are necessary but not always easy to perform to ensure good results in terms of limb-salvage. The aim of this study is to review the patients treated for a KD and the management of a potential arterial injury at our institution.

Results: All patients could be uniquely classified and treated according to introduced treatment concept. All patients showed good to excellent clinical results at the follow-up examinations. The incidence of AMRI was significantly reduced to 6.6% compared with 43.3% preoperatively. EMKO was in none of the patients verifiable.

Discussion: Vascular injuries following knee dislocations are rare and therapeutic strategies are mainly based on case reports. The lesion can lead to an acute and drastic limb ischemia. Therefore, quick diagnosis and prompt treatment are necessary but not always easy to perform. There were 4 venous bypasses and 1 arterial suture.

Conclusion: Arterial injury following knee dislocation is common. However, the diagnosis can be difficult, especially in obese patients and a high index of suspicion is necessary to perform adequate radiological work-up. Today, angio-CT scan is the exam of choice to confirm or rule out the vascular injury. It leads to a quick and accurate diagnosis, allowing surgery to be performed in a reasonable delay in order, to ensure a limb salvage rate of up to 100%.

Survival rate after repeat surgery of chordomas of the cervical spine including the cranio-vertebral junction
Dezső Jeszenszky, Robert Hunyadi, Daniel Haschtmann, Frank S. Kleinstück, Hans-Jürgen Becker, Tamas F. Fekete Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Chordomas rarely metastasize but due to the high local recurrence rate, despite surgical resection and/or radiation therapy, prognosis is poor. There is a paucity of literature regarding the outcome of treatment of recurrent chordomas. The purpose of this study was to report on survival rate and complications in patients treated with chordoma remnants with/without tumor recurrence at the cranio-cervical junction or in the cervical spine.

Methods: 24 patients, referred to our department with chordoma remnants (RC-group; 7 cases) or recurrent chordomas (RRc-group; 17 cases) were reviewed retrospectively between 1999 and 2012 (12 men and 12 women, aged 5 to 86 (mean 44.3) years). The chordomas were located at the cranio-cervical junction (N = 13), mid-cervical level (N = 9) and the low-cervical spine (N = 2). All patients underwent single- or multi-staged piece-meal tumor removal and instrumentation if necessary. Postoperatively, 4 patients received advented proton beam radiation therapy (mean dose, 69.2 CGE) and 12 patients, combined photon- and proton beam radiation therapy (mean dose, 74.19 CGE).

Medically and radiologically follow-up took place on average 375.4 (2 to 102) mo after surgery. Survival rates were evaluated with Kaplan-Meier-plots.

Results: Gross total tumor removal was achieved in 17 cases, subtotal resection in 3, and uncertain degree of resection in 3 cases; in 1 case, for palliative reasons, partial excision was carried out. Early complications were CSF leak in 7 patients, meningitis in 1, hematoma evacuation in 3 (due to neurological deficit). Dehiscence of the pharyngeal wall at the site of incision was the most common long-term complication (7 cases). No instances of instability were observed. The 5-year progression-free survival rate was 72.6%.

Conclusion: In patients who have undergone previous chordoma resection surgery, gross total tumor removal is feasible, even at the cranio-cervical junction. With the combination of advented single proton- or single proton plus photon beam radiation therapy, a survival rate can be achieved that is similar to that reported in the literature following first time chordoma removal.

Clinical Outcome of Decompressive Surgery for Lumbar Epidural Lipomatosis
Daniel Haschtmann, Peter Ferlic, Tamas F. Fekete, François Porchet, Frank S. Kleinstück, Anne F. Mannion, Dezső Jeszenszky Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: The treatment of spinal epidural lipomatosis (SEL) is controversial. The limited evidence for the success of surgical decompression in this rare pathology is mostly derived from case reports. Moreover, no patient-rated outcome studies are available. The objective of this study was to evaluate clinical outcome after lumbar decompressive surgery for SEL in the largest series of patients examined to date.

Methods: Consecutive patients with symptomatic SEL documented on MRI undergoing surgical treatment in a single centre (2004–2012) were analysed. Data were obtained from the International Spine Tango Register. Patients with spinal stenosis caused by other pathologies were excluded. Outcome was evaluated using Core Outcome Measure Index (COMI; scored 0–10) including the pain scale for leg and back. Three months was defined as the minimal follow-up time; for most patients a two-year follow-up period was available (mean 20.2 months).

Results: In 170 patients undergoing lumbar decompressive surgery SEL was documented. 141 patients were excluded due to accompanying discogenic or arthrogenic stenosis. In 6 patients MRI scans was unavailable and 1 patient did not complete the forms. Finally, 22 patients (19 male, 3 female, mean age: 88.2, 50.4–88.7 years) were included. At 3 months the outcome scores showed a significant improvement: COMI from 7.5 ± 1.7 (mean ± SD) to 4.9 ± 2.5 (p <0.0001), leg pain from 5.9 ± 2.6 to 3.5 ± 2.8 (p = 0.0042) and back pain from 5.4 ± 3.2 to 4.2 ± 2.8 (p = 0.004). The effect was retained for 2 years (COMI: 5.1 ± 3.1, p = 0.003 vs. preoperative).

Conclusion: Based on patient-reported outcome, we could demonstrate a beneficial effect of decompressive surgery for spinal stenosis due to epidural lipomatosis. The improvement of leg pain was more pronounced than the improvement in back pain, as expected, and the effects lasted for at least 2 years.
COMPARISON OF BENDING RADIOGRAPHS BETWEEN UPRIGHT POSITION IN EOS AND CONVENTIONAL SUPINE POSITION IN PATIENTS WITH ADOLESCENT IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS

Paul Borbas, José Sprig, Giannmarco Colombo, Kan Min Unlikink Balgrist

Introduction: Biplanar low-dose X-ray systems called EOS imaging have been regularly in use in adolescent patients with idiopathic scoliosis (AIS). The aim of the present study was to compare the standing EOS bending radiographs to conventional supine bending radiographs.

Methods: This is a retrospective study of 29 consecutive adolescent patients with idiopathic scoliosis (mean age of 17.3 years) who had preoperative radiographic work-up. Preoperative imaging included standing whole spine in EOS, upright bending radiographs in EOS and supine bending conventional radiographs. Thoracic (T) and thoracolumbar/lumbar (TL/L) Cobb angles were measured. The upright EOS bending radiographs were compared to conventional supine radiographs and statistical analysis was performed. Inter- and intra-class reliability for two observers with measurements at two time points was evaluated.

Results: Mean T-Cobb angle in neutral standing position was 54.6°. Mean TL/L-Cobb angle was 44.4°. Mean bending T-Cobb angle (n = 23) was 35.9° in upright position in EOS and 31.6° (p = 0.005) in supine conventional radiographs. Mean bending TL/L-Cobb angle (n = 14) was in upright position in EOS was 31.7° and 25.2° in conventional supine bending (p = 0.034). Inter- and intra-observer reliability was excellent (ICC = 0.96 and 0.97). The level of the first opening disc distally on the concave side on bending was the same in both techniques.

Conclusion: A significant difference between upright bending radiographs in and conventional supine bending radiographs with less correction of more than 4° in upright EOS was observed in the thoracic as well as in thoracolumbar and lumbar curves. This might influence the determination of fusion levels in AIS.

Influence of Previous Conservative Treatment Interval on Outcomes Following Decompressive Surgery for Lumbar Disc Herniation

Negative beliefs and psychological disturbance in spine surgery patients: a cause or consequence of a poor treatment outcome?

Sina Havakeshian, Anne F Mannion

Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Chronic musculoskeletal pain is often associated with psychological distress, maladaptive beliefs and these may have a negative impact on surgical outcome. The influence of a surgical intervention, and its outcome, on the course of change in psychological status has been poorly documented. We prospectively examined the dynamic interplay between psychological factors and outcome in patients undergoing decompression for spinal stenosis/herniated disc.

Methods: Before and 12 mo after surgery, 159 patients (100 M, 59 F; 65 ± 11 y) completed questionnaires enquiring about socio-demographics, medical history, pain characteristics, psychological disturbance, catastrophising, disability (Roland & Morris), general health and specific Beliefs about pain activity (FABQ-PA). The global outcome of surgery at 12 mo was rated using a 5-point Likert scale and dichotomised as “good” (operation helped/helped a lot) or “poor” (operation helped only little/didn’t help/made things worse).

Results: Questionnaire data were available for 148 patients at 12 mo follow-up: 113 (76.4%) reported a good outcome and 35 (23.6%) a poor outcome. In univariate analyses the following each significantly (p <0.05) predicted a good 12 mo global outcome: no disability claim, and lower values for LBP frequency, average pain score, FABQ-PA, and catastrophising. In multiple logistic regression, only lower FABQ-PA scores (OR 0.977 (95%CI 0.909–0.948), p = 0.001) and lower LBP-frequency (OR 0.340 (1.249–1.783), p <0.0001) significantly predicted a good outcome at 12 mo. A second “exploratory” logistic regression model revealed that a good outcome at 12 mo was significantly associated with improvements (pre-op to 12mo) in: average pain score (OR 1.6879 (1.187–2.398), general health (OR 1.246 (1.004–1.455), psychological disturbance (OR 1.073 (1.006–1.144), and Roland Morris (OR 1.243 (1.074–1.439).

Conclusion: In a multivariate predictive model, FABQ-PA was the only psychological factor that significantly predicted outcome. Future studies should assess whether preoperative psychological therapy in patients with maladaptive beliefs improves treatment outcome. Psychological disturbance did not predict outcome, but it improved in patients with a good outcome and worsened in those with a poor outcome. A risk factor for poor outcome, it appeared to be a consequence of long-standing, unremitting pain that improved when symptoms were resolved after successful surgery.

Is an annular tear a predictor for accelerated disc degeneration?

Nadja Farshad-Amacker, Alexander P. Hughes, Alexander Aichlar, Richard J. Herzog, Mazda Farshad

Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: It is questionable whether an annular tear (AT) is a predictor for accelerated degeneration of the intervertebral discs. The aim of this study was to answer this question via a matched case control study design that reliably eliminates potential confounders.

Methods: Presence or absence of AT, defined as a hypertensive lesion within the annular fibrous on T2-weighted non-contrast MRI images, was documented in 450 intervertebral lumbar discs of 90 patients who could be followed up for at least 4 years with MRI. Discs with an AT (n = 36) were matched 1:1 to control discs according to the level, degree of initial disc degeneration on MRI (both Pfirrmann grade median 4, range 3–4), age (59.5 ± 10.2 years vs 59.3 ± 14.8 years), BMI (26.7 ± 4.4 kg/m² vs 26.9 ± 4.4 kg/m²) and interval to the follow up-MRI (4.8 ± 0.8 years vs 5.1 ± 0.8 years). The degree of disc degeneration after a minimum of 4 years was graded on the follow up MRI in both groups according to the Pfirrmann classification.

Results: One-forth (25%) of the 36 discs with an AT on the initial MRI exam progressed in degeneration. This was similar to the rate of the matched control discs with no AT, in which also around one-forth (22%) showed a progression of degeneration (p = 1.00), also without any difference in the degree of degeneration.

Conclusion: Discs with ≥2 with an AT, defined by a hypertensive signal intensity on MRI, are not prone to accelerated degeneration if compared to discs without an AT. Therefore, the presence of an AT per se does not predict accelerated disc degeneration.
Microscopic versus open discectomy for lumbar disc herniation: a retrospective single center analysis of 500 consecutive patients

Samuel Schmid, Christoph Woernle, Stefanie Hirsiger, Gianmarco Colombo, Alexander Antoniadis, Cyrill Weichsel, Nils Ulrich, Kan Min Unliknik Balgrist

Introduction: Surgery for lumbar disc herniation is a common and well established procedure. Different techniques were performed and still remain controversial under discussion in the literature.

Methods: 500 consecutive patients from 2003–2011 were retrospectively analyzed after either microscopic or open discectomy for lumbar disc herniation. 225 patients were treated with an open, 275 with a microscopic procedure. Primary endpoints were defined as: clinical outcome, duration of surgery time and hospital stay. As secondary endpoint we analyzed the cost-effectiveness of both procedures.

Results: Regarding the clinical outcome both procedures were equal in focusing on neurological outcome and recurrent disc herniation. In the open group the average operation time was 46 min (20–90 min), compared to 87 min (45–195 min) found in the microscopic discectomy group. Average hospitalization was shorter in the microscopic discectomy group (6.3 days) compared to the open discectomy group (7.2 days). Regarding the cost-effectiveness there was no significant difference in both groups. The overall cost of open discectomy was 9'030 CHF compared to 9'167 CHF with microscopic discectomy.

Conclusion: This retrospective single center analyses open vs. microscopic discectomy showed equal results focusing on clinical outcome and cost effectiveness. Further prospective randomized trials were necessary in this regard.

What level of pain are patients happy to live with after surgery for lumbar herniated disc?

Frank S. Kleinstück, Anne F. Mannion, Daniel Haschtmann, François Porchet, Tamas F. Fekeete, Dezso Jeszenszky

Schultheiss Klinik

Introduction: A new approach to the reporting of health outcomes – and one which differs from the notion of “improvement” or “change” after treatment — involves assessing the proportion of patients achieving a level of symptoms that they consider acceptable and feel they could live with. We evaluated the acceptable level of pain in patients after surgery for lumbar disc herniation (LDH).

Methods: This was a retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data from consecutive patients in our Spine Center Outcomes Registry who had undergone first-time surgery for LDH between 2005 and 2011. 12 months postoperatively, patients completed 0–10 scales for back pain and leg pain and a question: “if you had to spend the rest of your life with the symptoms you have now, how would you feel about it?”, answered on a 5-point Likert scale from “very satisfied” to “very dissatisfied”. This was dichotomised and used as the external criterion for measuring pain.

Results: 1’209 patients (57.5% men, aged 51 ± 15 y) returned a questionnaire (90% follow-up rate), of which 611 (51%) reported being at least somewhat satisfied with their symptom state. The area under the ROC analysis was 0.91 (95% CI, 0.89–0.92), indicating a good ability of the pain score to discriminate between being in a satisfactory state or not.

Conclusion: Most spine interventions are aimed at decreasing pain and leg pain and a question: “if you had to spend the rest of your life with the symptoms you have now, how would you feel about it?”, answered on a 5-point Likert scale from “very satisfied” to “very dissatisfied”. This was dichotomised and used as the external criterion for measuring pain.

Biologically Augmented Lumbar Spine Fusion – Fusion Rates vs Heterotropic Ossification

Julia Quiddle, Alexander Mameghani, Patrick Vavken, Stefan Schären

Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsspital Basel

Introduction: Biological stimulants such as Bone Morphogenetic Proteins (BMP-2 and 7) or platelet concentrates have been proposed to augment lumbar fusion and improve union rates. However, recent data has shed light on increased rates of complications with the use of these agents. This meta-analysis assesses the available evidence for complications, revisions and cancer rates with the use of Biological stimulants in spine fusion.

Methods: We conducted an online search for relevant controlled trials and extracted data on complications and revision rates. These data were synthesized in a meta-analysis using DerSimonian-Laird random effects modelling.

Results: Our search produced 571 results, 22 of which were eligible for inclusion. These studies report on a total of 2,095 patients (181 experimental, 914 controls) with a mean age of 55.2 ± 8.8 years. Mean follow-up was 1.6 ± 0.5 years.

Conclusion: While helpful in achieving postoperative fusion in spine surgery, biological augmentation is associated with a higher rate of complications. These complications do not always require further surgery, but, including increases cancer rates, are severe in nature nevertheless.

Complication, Revision, and Cancer Rates in Biologically Augmented Spine Fusion

Julia Quiddle, Alexander Mameghani, Patrick Vavken, Stefan Schären

Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsspital Basel

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Conclusion: While helpful in achieving postoperative fusion in spine surgery, biological augmentation is associated with a higher rate of complications. These complications do not always require further surgery, but, including increases cancer rates, are severe in nature nevertheless.
Results: At final follow-up, the mean VAS for back and leg pain significantly improved to 28 mm and 20 mm respectively (p <0.001). The mean VAS was improved for 49% of the patients. 92% of patients would undergo surgery again. Radiologically, the spondylolisthesis did not progress and the motion segments remained stable. We did not see any significant screw loosening or breakage of the implanted materials at the final follow-up. 95% of the study population showed some radiological signs of adjacent segment degeneration (osteoarthrosis and/or olisthesis). 16% of the patient population required further surgery because of symptomatic adjacent segment degeneration.

Conclusions: Decompression and single level dynamic in situ stabilization with the Dynesys System demonstrates excellent clinical and radiographic long-term results in elderly patients. It maintains enough stability to prevent progression of spondylolisthesis without the need for fusion surgery and its associated risks and morbidity. It does not, however, prevent adjacent segment disease. The rate of secondary surgeries is comparable to other posterior instrumentation devices.

Dietary Determinants of Evolution of Endplate and Disc Degeneration in the Lumbar Spine – A Multifactorial Perspective

Nadia Farshad-Amacker, Alexander P. Hughes, Alexander Aichmair, Richard J. Herzog, Mazda Farshad Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: Evolution and progression of disc and endplate degeneration of the lumbar spine is thought to be multifactorial, yet the strengths of the influences of potential factors and their interactions are not understood. The aim of this study was to find the strength of influence and interaction of the potential factors associated with evolution of degeneration of the lumbar spine.

Methods: Patients (n = 90) who underwent two lumbar MRI examinations with an interval of at least four years and without any spinal surgery where included into the longitudinal cohort study with nested case control analysis. Disc degeneration was scored according to the Pfirrmann classification and endplate changes according to Modic for 450 levels on both MRIs. Potential variables for degeneration such as age, gender, BMI, scoliosis and sagittal parameters were compared between patients with and without evolution or progression of degenerative changes in their lumbar spine. A multivariate analysis aimed to separate the most important variables for progression of disc and endplate degeneration, respectively.

Results: While neither age, gender, BMI, sacral slope or presence of scoliosis could be identified as progression factor for disc degeneration, a higher lordosis was observed in subjects with no progression (49.2° ± 11.0° vs 43.2° ± 11.7°; p = 0.017). Progression or evolution of endplate degeneration was only associated with higher degree of scoliosis (9.5° ± 10.4° versus 5.9° ± 8.0°; p = 0.0076) and not to any of the other variables.

Conclusion: While a coronal deformity of the lumbar spine is associated with evolution or progression of endplate degeneration, a higher lumbar lordosis is protective for both, disc degeneration and endplate degeneration. This implies that patients with a scoliotic deformity and lesser lumbar lordosis are prone to faster overall degeneration of their lumbar spine.

Obesity Measured By Outer Abdominal Fat May Cause Facet Joint Arthritis At The Lumbar Spine

Thorsten Jentsch1, James Geiger, cand. med.2, Ksenija Slankamenac, Dr. med. et PhD2, Guido A. Wanner1, Hans-Peter Simmen, Prof. Dr. med.2, Clement M. L. Werner, Prof. Dr. med.2

1UniversitätsSpital Zürich, 2Division of Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Background: Obesity is a common health problem, which may cause mechanical stress on the spine and lead to degenerative diseases of the back. There is a lack of studies on the relationship of obesity and spine-pelvic parameters, such as lumbar lordosis (LL) and pelvic incidence (PI). Previous studies have only focused on BMI and facet joint (FJ) arthritis with varying results. Outer abdominal fat (OAF) describes subcutaneous adipose tissue thickness of the abdomen. It accurately predicts the amount of total body fat and remains a rarely studied parameter.

Objective: Our goal was to clarify the remaining issues about OAF and (1) its physiologic values on CT scans, (2) age, (3) gender, (4) FJ arthritis, FJ orientation (5) LL and (6) PI.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed scans of 620 individuals, with a mean age of 42.5 years (range, 14–94 years), who presented to our traumatology department and underwent a whole body CT scan, between 2008 and 2010. OAF was measured on axial planes of CT scans at the level of umbilicus and the thinnest anterior abdominal wall distance was determined in millimeters. FJs of the lumbar spine were evaluated for arthritis and orientation between L2 and S1 were evaluated between L1 and S1. The PI was measured by the angle between the hip axis to an orthogonal line originating at the center of the superior end plate axis of the first sacral vertebra.

Results: (1) The mean value for OAF on CT scans is 19.7 mm (SD 10.1°, range 2.2–68.0 mm). (2) OAF significantly increased with age until 70 years and then decreased again (p <0.0001). (3) There was no significant gender difference for OAF. (4) OAF was significantly increased in individuals with FJ arthritis (p = 0.019 [1.04, 1.034]), but not with FJ orientation. (5) We did not find a significant association between OAF and LL (p = 0.18), nor PI (p = 0.34 for logarithmic values).

Conclusion: The mean value for OAF on CT scans is 19.7 mm. OAF is significantly associated with age. It increases with age until 70 years and then decreases again. It is not gender-related. As a novelty finding, OAF significantly increases with the presence of FJ arthritis, but it is not related to FJ orientation, LL or PI. Therefore, obese patients may benefit from weight loss by decreasing their FJ arthritis and potentially associated back pain.
Conclusion: The open Latarjet procedure demonstrated superior Bankart repair. The difference increased significantly over the course of our follow up period with decreasing effectiveness of Bankart repair over time. In accordance to these findings, we suggest a minimum follow up period of 3 years following a Latarjet procedure and 7 years for patients having received an arthroscopic Bankart procedure.

Results: Our preliminary results show similar peri- and postoperative complication rates compared with younger patients and overall improvement in all ZCO-subgroups (overall symptom severity, physical function domain). Patients were overall satisfied with surgery. The pre- and post-operative VAS-comparison showed a mean improvement by 2.9 points.

Conclusion: Our study suggests that posterior decompression is a beneficial treatment procedure and seems to improve quality of life even in patients over 80 years of age. To date, this is the largest European single-center octogenarian patient population with DLSS that were evaluated for decompression surgery.

Does the duration of preoperative conservative therapy in degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis have an influence on the outcome in microsurgical decompression?

Thomas Zweig1, Martin Jäger1, Emin Aghayev2, Juliane Enke2, Christoph Röder2
1KSÄ Orthopädische Klinik – WS-Chirurgie, 2MEM Center – IEPO

Introduction: Decompression without fusion is one of the most common interventions in patients with lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS) where no radiological signs or intraoperative instability exist. Until now only few predictors (age, operation time, and comorbidities) were found to be influencing the outcome. The success of conservative therapy is still discussed controversially. No evidence exists if the time has come to switch from conservative to surgical therapy, unless there is a neurologisch deficit (rare condition). This study aims at the influence of the duration of conservative therapy on outcome. No, <3 mo, 3–6 mo, 6–12 mo, >12 mo.) on the outcome of decompression in LSS. We hypothesized outcome of surgery is dependent on the duration of previous conservative treatment.

Methods: This prospective multicenter study currently contains more than 50,000 spinal operations; We examined 2,479 complete LSS cases in all pre-operative assessment of leg- and back pain on Visual Analogue Scale (VAS: 0–10) and spine specific Core Outcome Measures Index (COMI) were recorded. Physician-based documentation defining the surgical treatment (pathology, procedure, complications, blood loss, hospital stay) and surgeon follow-up were recorded. Descriptive statistics and multivariate logistic regression were used to analyze pre to post-operative patient-based VAS for leg- and back pain and COMI scores for the whole group and for four cohorts with differing periods of conservative care.

Results: The duration of previous conservative treatment, stratified as outlined, did not have any influence on the ultimate outcomes. There were no statistically or clinically significant differences in leg pain relief, back pain relief or COMI score at the 1-year-FU for the four different time periods of conservative care. The individual significant results for back pain relief in all groups were between 2.1 and 2.5 (p >0.05); Relief for leg pain was higher with: 2.4 to 3.3 (p >0.05) and for COMI: btw 2.6 and 3.1 (p >0.05).

Conclusions: Due to the relative long time frame of a clinical stable situation in LSS and temporary relief due to conservative therapy, the decision making for a surgical intervention is still a challenge. This study demonstrated significant improvements in standardized outcomes following lumbar decompression at the 1y FU that were independent of the duration of cons. care. These findings have to be confirmed in a more controlled study environment.

Long-Term Results of Bankart Repair and Latarjet Procedure for Treatment of Recurrent Shoulder Instability

Stefan Zimmermann, Max Joseph Scheyerer, Christiane Pietsch, Christian Gerber
Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: For recurrent anterior instability several different operative techniques have been proposed. The aim of the present study was to compare the mid- to long-term results of the two currently most commonly performed procedures: the arthroscopic soft tissue repair (Bankart) and bone reconstruction (Latarjet) procedure.

Methods: A comparative case analysis was performed for 256 patients (261 shoulders) with first time surgery for recurrent gleno-humeral joint instability between 1998 and 2007. Minimum follow up period of 3 years following a Latarjet procedure and 7 years for patients having received an arthroscopic Bankart procedure. Mean age was 31 years for patients treated with a Latarjet procedure and 29 years for the Bankart group respectively. Recurrence of joint instability occurred in 72 cases (38.5%) following a Bankart procedure and in 8 cases (10.8%) in the Latarjet group after a mean of 37.7 months. Kaplan-Meyer analysis for time to sensation of instability (p = 0.0001), time to subluxation (p = 0.001) and time to redislocation (p = 0.001) demonstrated significant differences between both procedures with decreasing effectiveness of the Bankart procedure over the postoperative course of time. Failures following a bone reconstruction procedure occurred early postoperatively with nearly no long-term failures. In both groups the subjective shoulder value significantly improved postoperatively (p = 0.0001).

Conclusion: The open Latarjet procedure demonstrated superior results with significantly fewer failures compared to an arthroscopic Bankart repair. The difference increased significantly over the course of our follow up period with decreasing effectiveness of Bankart repair over time. In accordance to these findings, we suggest a minimum follow up period of 3 years following a Latarjet procedure and 7 years for patients having received an arthroscopic Bankart procedure respectively.

Arthroscopic rotator cuff repair in wheelchair patient

Jacek Kerl1, Paul Borbas1, Dominik C. Meyer1, Christian Gerber1, Carlos Buitrago Téllez2, Karl Wieser1
1Swiss Paraplegic Center Notwil, 2Spital Zofingen

Introduction: Arthroscopic rotator cuff repair in weightbearing shoulders leads to satisfying clinical results with high patient satisfaction. However, the postoperative rehabilitation is demanding, requires high patient compliance and a specialized unit with experience in handling these additionally impaired patients.
Prospective Clinical and Radiological Evaluation of Factors Predicting Outcomes After Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair

Alexandre Lädermann1, Philippe Collin2
1Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, La Tour Hospital, Geneva; 2Saint-Grégoire Private Hospital Center, Saint-Grégoire

Introduction: This study aimed to report the clinical and sonographic outcome of patients who underwent arthroscopic repair of a full-thickness rotator cuff tear, and to determine the factors associated with poor clinical outcome at six and nine months after surgery. The hypothesis was that different factors are related to unsatisfactory postoperative evolution.

Materials: All patients who had an ARCR performed by one author were considered potentially eligible for inclusion in this longitudinal continuous prospective study. The cohort was divided into two groups based clinical results at six months. Group A consisted of patient that had a medical file that could be closed, that were unsatisfied, with a Constant score below 80, and that return to their professional activity. Group B consisted of patients that had a medical file that could be closed, that were satisfied, with a Constant score above 80, and that return to work.

Results: Three hundred and sixty-five patients met the entry criteria and were enrolled in the study. The group A consisted finally of 293 patients and the group B of 58 patients. In the multivariate analysis, the only preoperative factors that showed a significant relationship with group A were workers’ compensation patients and preoperative Constant score below 50 points. Postoperatively, the number of tendons repaired (large and massive tears) and bursitis determined by ultrasound at six months were the only factors that increased the risk of being in the group B. A tendon non-healing was consequently not a bad prognosis factor. However, if a patient with a non-healing had pain at 6 months, the pain will persists at 9 months.

Conclusion: ARCR is an effective procedure that leads in most cases to significant improvement in satisfaction and function, and to tendon healing. However, in one of five cases, patients were not considered as cured at six months and could not return to work. This information is crucial in our current practice as it permit to justify an inability to return to work of more than 6 months postoperatively vis-à-vis of insurances. Persistent limitation at six months was associated with workers’ compensation status, a preoperative Constant score below 50 points, size of the tear and the presence of postoperative persistent bursitis. Functional result is limited at nine month in case of tendon non-healing.

Pseudoparalysis can be reversed following arthroscopic rotator cuff repair: A prospective analysis

Alexandre Lädermann1, Patrick Denard2
1Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, La Tour Hospital, Geneva; 2Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, Oregon Health & Science University Southern Oregon Orthopedics, Medford, Oregon, USA

Introduction: Some authors have suggested that patients with pseudoparalysis and an “irreparable rotator cuff tear” require a reverse shoulder prosthesis with a tendon transfer (RSA) to regain active motion above shoulder level. However, RSA has been associated with high complication rates. Therefore, the objective of this study was to test the hypothesis that different factors are related to unsatisfactory postoperative evolution.

Methods: This was a prospective multi-centered study of ARCR performed by one author between 2006 and 2011. The mean age of the cohort was 57 years (range 46–74). The procedure was performed through a combined suprolateral and deltpectoral approach. The torn superior part of the tear (supraspinatus in 4 shoulders, supraspinatus and infraspinatus in 3 shoulders) was repaired directly. A split PM tendon transfer of the sternal muscle head was performed to reconstruct the cranial part of the subscapularis muscle (7 shoulders). In patient with complete loss of the subscapularis muscle a TM transfer was added to reconstruct the lowest part of the muscle (6 shoulders). The Constant score (CSS) was used to assess shoulder function. In addition patients were asked to rate the level of satisfaction and the subjective shoulder value (SSV).

Results: At a mean follow-up period of 5.1 years, 51 (92.7%) of the patients recovered from pseudoparalysis. The average CSS increased from 34 (SD ± 14) before surgery to 67 points (SD ± 15) at follow-up (p <0.003). Whereas pain and mobility scores increased from 7 (SD ± 2) to 13.1 (SD ± 3.6) (p<0.02) and 16 (SD ± 9) to 30 (SD ± 6.6) points (p<0.017) respectively, strength remained low in all patients. All patients with a healed cuff were very satisfied and rated the SSV >99%. One patient with a re-rupture of the superior cuff remained painful and was somewhat satisfied.

Conclusion: Reconstruction of acute on chronic anterosuperior RCT with combined direct tendon repair and tendon transfer leads to sustainable pain reduction, increase of function and high patient satisfaction provided healing of the fixed and transferred tendons occurs. The relevance of the tendon transfer on clinical outcome remains matter of debate.

Is there an Association between Rotator Cuff Degeneration and Shoulder Subluxation in OA Shoulders?

Alexandre Terrier1, Julien Stor1, Alain Farron2
1EPFL/CHUV, 2CHUV/EPFL

Introduction: Rotator cuff muscles are critical for the stability of the glenohumeral joint. OA shoulders may be associated with degeneration of these muscles and/or shoulder subluxation.

Aim: Therefore, the objective of this study was to test the hypothesis that rotator cuff degeneration is related to the subluxation of the humeral head.

Methods: Muscle degeneration was quantified by atrophy and fatty infiltration. Atrophy was defined as a loss of at least 25% of the muscle mass. Fatty infiltration was defined as a loss of at least 25% of the muscle volume.

Results: Glenohumeral and scapulohumeral subluxations were only observed in OA shoulders. The mean age of the cohort was 62.6 ± 8.9 years. The prevalence of rotator cuff degeneration was 59.5%. The prevalence of shoulder subluxation was 41.1%. The prevalence of rotator cuff degeneration and shoulder subluxation was 23.2%.

Conclusion: Rotator cuff degeneration and shoulder subluxation are strongly associated in OA shoulders. This association may be related to the degeneration of the rotator cuff muscles.
Extra-articular Step Osteotomy of the Olecranon: A Biomechanical Assessment

Beat Moor1, Alexander Bürlì, Anne-Sophie Massy4, Philippe Zysset5, Matthias Zumstein1
1Institute for Surgical Technology and Biomechanics, University of Bern

Background: Due to its maximized exposure, trans-olecranar chevron-shaped osteotomies (COs) remain the gold standard approach to type C fractures of the distal humerus. In consideration of the high complication rate inherent to this technique, an extra-articular osteotomy of the olecranon may be advantageous. The purpose of the present study was to compare primary biomechanical stability of COs with extra-articular oblique osteotomies (OOs) as well as modified, extra-articular step osteotomies (SOs).

Methods: According to pilot studies, the three osteotomies were tested in 42 composite analog ulnae models at 20° and 70° of flexion. Tensecs loading was simulated with a servo hydraulic testing machine. All specimens were isometrically loaded until failure. Kinematic and force data, as well as interfragment motion were recorded.

Results: At 70°, CO failed at a mean load of 963 N (SD 104 N), the OO at 1512 N (SD 208 N) and the SO at 1484 N (SD 153 N), (p <0.001). At 20°, CO failed at a mean load of 707 N (SD 104 N) and OO at 1009 N (SD 85 N) (p = 0.006). The highest load until failure was observed for the SO, which was with 1277 N (SD 172 N) significantly stronger as the CO as well as the OO.

Conclusion: Extra-articular osteotomies showed a significant higher resistance against tensile forces than traditional COs. At close to full extension, these biomechanical advantages were further improved by a step-cut modification of the oblique osteotomy.

The Deltoid Tuberosity Index (DTI) – A Simple Radiographic Tool to assess Local Bone Quality for Proximal Humerus Fractures (PHF)

Christian Spross1, Nicola Kästle2, Emanuel Benninger5, Jürgen Formann3, Johannes Erhardt5, Bernhard Jost5
1Department of Surgery and Traumatology, Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 2Department of Radiology, Kantonsspital St. Gallen

Introduction: Osteoporosis complicates the treatment of PHFs and should be respected for the preoperative planning. Peripheral quantitative CT (pQCT) and the Tingart measurement (TI) are validated methods, but both have limitations in the clinical use. It was the aim to define and validate the DTI to radiographically predict local bone quality for PHFs.

Methods: The DTI was defined directly proximal to the deltoid tuberosity, where the inner and outer cortical borders become parallel. It was calculated by dividing the outer by the inner cortical diameter at this level.

Results: The DTI and the TI were measured on internal rotation AP shoulder radiographs (IRx) and BMD (mg/cm²) on pQCTs of 26 unfractured shoulders (11 female, 13 male, mean: 62 years). Inter/intrarater correlations (2 readers) of the DTI and TI were calculated using IRx of 40 randomly selected patients (31 female, 9 male, mean: 65 years) with PHFs.

Results: The mean (range) values were: DTI 1.46 (1.12-2.05), TI 5.32 mm (1.92-7.95) and BMD 94 mg/cm² (40-178). Both, the DTI and the TI showed a strong correlation to each other (r = 0.87) and to the BMD (r = 0.85/0.84). The intra/intrarater correlations were strong for both: DTI (r = 0.92/0.98), TI (r = 0.89/0.85). The DTI was measurable in significantly more PHFs (76/80 vs. 63/80; p <0.01). The optimal threshold values (ROC-analysis) to predict osteoporosis (<85 mg/cm²) were <1.4 (DTI) and <5 mm (TI).

Conclusions: The DTI correlated well to local BMD with a threshold value of <1.4 to predict osteoporosis. It’s clinical feasibility and reproducibility for PHFs were superior compared to the TI. The DTI turned out to be a simple and valuable alternative to the TI without need for correction of magnification.

Lengthening of the Subscapularis Tendon as a Sign of Partial Tearing

Marc Gerhartland, Karl Wieser, Stefan Zimmermann, Christian Gerber, Dominik Meyer

Introduction: Partial subscapularis (SSC) tendon tears usually involve the superior aspect first, with later inferior extension. The tendon thereby elongates and progressively evolves into a formed scar tissue leading to retraction and loss of function of the corresponding muscle. For better understanding and identification of such a tendon rupture in continuity, the purpose of this study was to quantify SSC tendon length in MRIs of patients with pathological or normal (control group) SSC tendons.

Methods: 91 shoulder MR arthrographies, which were performed within 3 months prior to shoulder arthroscopy (March 2010 and 2012) were retrospectively identified for the purpose of this study. On T2 weighted transverse sections through the center of the SSC’s myotendinous unit we identified (1) the most medial part of the SSC muscle origin (medial border of the scapula), (2) the myotendinous junction and (3) the tendon insertion at the lesser tuberosity and calculated thereof the SSC muscle and tendon length and the tendon to muscle ratio, respectively. All MR radiographies were reviewed by 2 readers independently. Findings in later performed arthroscopies were used as the diagnostic gold standard and all surgical reports and intraoperative photo documentations were reviewed for the exact description of the SSC tendon integrity.

Results: In 55 patients arthroscopy showed an intact subscapularis tendon (group A), while in 36 patients a partial SSC tear (group B) was diagnosed and treated with debridement (5 patients) or tenorrhaphy (31 patients). The interobserver variance (Pearson) was 0.83 for SSC tendon length and 0.84 for tendon/muscle ratio respectively. While intact SSC musculotendinous units (group A) showed a tendon length of 40.5 mm (SD 0.93) and a tendon/muscle ratio of 0.40 (SD 0.073), in case of tendon lesion (group B) the SSC tendon length was significantly (p <0.0001) increased (52.7 mm; SD 1.4) leading to a higher tendon/muscle ratio of 0.57 (SD 0.019).

Conclusion: Partial tears of the upper part of the subscapularis tendon are associated with a – on MR-arthrographies detectable – lengthening of the tendon, leading to a retraction of its corresponding muscle and medialization of the myotendinous junction.

The Joint Reaction Force is Dependent on the Size of The Critical Shoulder Angle. A Biomechanical Analysis

Arnd Viehöfer1, Jess Snedeker2, Daniel Baumgartner3, Christian Gerber1
3Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Uniklinik Balgrist, ETH Zürich, 3Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Winterthur

Introduction: Osteoarthritis (OA) of the glenohumeral joint is a common pathology and the most frequent reason for nontraumatic shoulder replacement. Recently a correlation between a small critical shoulder angle (CSA) of 28.1° (± 3.3) and OA was found (control group; CSA = 33.1° ±2.3). We hypothesized that a small CSA leads to a higher joint reaction force (JRF) causing OA.

Methods: A shoulder simulator with simulated deltoid (DLT), supraspinatus (SSP), infraspinatus/teres minor (ISP/TM), and subscapularis (SSC) musculotendinous units was constructed. The principal abductors DLT and SSP were configured to apply increasing force. For each of the 4 settings the joint forces orthogonally and laterally to the glenoid perpendicular to the applied forces were measured by a 6-axis load cell and the joint reaction force was calculated.

Results: The JRF showed a constant increase during thoracohumeral abduction lying within the range of in vivo recorded values by means of a telemetric implant for a thoracohumeral abduction between 13° and 55°. For the CSA (28°) associated with OA the magnitude of the JRF was found to be higher compared to the control CSA (33°) for both DLT/SSP ratios and all three inclination angles of the glenoid during the whole movement. The finding was more pronounced for the DLT/SSP ratio of 2 compared to an equal force distribution between DLT and SSP with a maximum difference of 26.4 N (8.5%) at angle of 55° of thoracohumeral abduction compared to 16.1 N (5.9%). A general correlation between the inclination and the difference in JRF could not be proven.

Conclusion: Our results show that the CSA found in OA leads to a higher reaction force. This supports the theory that a small CSA leads to a higher load at the joint surface causing degenerative changes that leads to OA.
3-D preoperative planning and patient specific instrumentation for Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty

Karim Eid, Matthias Schenkel, Felix Waibel
Kantonsspital Baden, *KS Baden

Introduction: Optimal glenoid component positioning in total shoulder arthroplasty is crucial to avoid early loosing, scapular notching, and impaired shoulder function. To date, preoperative planning is based on 2-D assessed glenoid version and only rough estimation of the inclination. Furthermore, intraoperative orientation and implantation to the desired positioning are guided only by simple instruments.

Patient specific instrumentation (PSI) facilitates anatomically guided component positioning based on precise 3-D preoperative planning. The purpose of the study was, whether PSI-instrumentations are intraoperatively feasible and allow accurate glenoid implantation.

Methods: A preoperative CT-Scan was performed at least 3 weeks prior to surgery. Preoperative planning was done with a specific 3-D software, allowing optimal positioning of the glenoid component within the glenoid vault. Patient-specific instruments for the Trabecular Metal Anatomical™ Glenoid were provided by Zimmer, Warsaw, USA. It included anatomically preformed drill guides for the central pin and screw guides. The study was approved by the institutional review board. Five patients with rotator cuff arthropathy (n = 4) and recurrent shoulder instability (n = 1) were included. Constant score, ASES, Subjective shoulder value, and EQ-SD were pre- and postoperatively assessed. A postoperative CT-Scan was performed at 3 months. Mean follow-up was 9 months (range 4–13 months).

Results: In all cases, patient-specific instruments were easily applied and did not impair the operative procedure. There was no perforation of the central peg and screw length corresponded with the preoperative plan. Postoperative clinical parameters revealed anticipated improvement in shoulder function and quality of life. On postoperative CT-scans, there was no perforation of the glenoid vault. Glenoid version as well as inclination corresponded to the preoperative plan (deviation ≤10°).

Conclusion: Preoperative 3-D planning and utilization of patient-specific instruments is easily feasible and allows for precise and reproducible implantation of the glenoid component. Particularly in small glenoid vaults or severe deformities, PSI-instrumentation is a valuable aid for accurate glenoid implantation.

Effects Humeral Configurations in a Virtual Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty Model

Alexandre Lädermann, Alexandre Terrier, Julien Strott, Pascal Boiteau, Alain Farron, Gilles Walch
Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, La Tour Hospital, Geneva, *Laboratory of Biomechanical Orthopedics, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, †Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Traumatology, Hôpital de l’Archet-University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis, Nice, ‡Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois, Lausanne, ‡Department of Orthopaedics, Shoulder Unit, Santy Orthopaedic Center and Jean Memrez Hospital, Lyon

Introduction: Many complications, such as scapular notching and arm lengthening could be attributed to 155° humeral neck-shaft inclination. To address these problems, several authors have proposed a change in the design of the Grammont prosthesis, promoting a decrease of the humeral neck-shaft angle. However, the implication of these different design changes on shoulder kinematics is still poorly understood. Change in the neck-shaft angle theoretically increases the risk of humeral lateralization. The latter has been only partially analyzed yet and may have a dramatic influence on outcomes after surgical reconstruction. The aim of this study was thus to analyze the effect of humeral lateralization with a numerical model after different configurations of RSA on ROM, and scapular impingement.

Methods: A 3-dimensional computer model was developed from computer tomography (CT) images of a cadaveric shoulder. The RSA Aequalis Reverse and Aequalis Ascend FLEX were inserted into the virtual shoulder. The standard 36 mm glenosphere was used. Six humeral components were tested: Aequalis Reversed 155° (H1), Aequalis Reversed 145° (H2), 145° H3, 145° medialized (H4), 145° lateralized (H5), and 135° (H6).

Results: Different stem design (Aequalis vs. Ascend Flex) lead to changes of 15° of global and 10° of offset. Contrarily, the different neck-shaft angle of the Ascend Flex (H2-H6) has almost no influence on global and humeral offset. There was a 24% decrease in abduction and a 78% increase in adduction in H6 constructs compared with a H1. When going from a H1 to a H6, the flexion decreases slightly of 4%, whereas an improvement in extension of 79% was observed. The H6 stem offer an advantage for external rotation elbow at the side but is limiting external rotation at 90° of abduction. Regarding rotations at 90° of abduction, external rotation decreased of more than 100% with H6 configuration compare to H1. Two types of impingement interactions were noted: the humeral socket could engage the glenoid circumferentially, included with superior glenoid fossa (fissction-type impingement), or the proximal humerus could impinge with the acromion in abduction and in external rotation at 90° of abduction (abutment-type impingement).

Conclusions: An understanding of changes in prosthetic design, such as humeral lateralization and different neck-shaft angles, is important to maximize ROM and limiting the different types of impingements.

REVERSE TOTAL SHOULDIER ARTHROPLASTY AFTER FAILED DELTOID FLAP RECONSTRUCTION

Alberto G. Schneebberger, Timo Müller, Wolfram Steens, Christoph Thürh
1. University of Zurich, Switzerland, 2.O N Z, Orthopädisch – Neurochirurgisches Zentrum, Recklinghausen, 3.Pyramide in Schwerenbach, Switzerland

Hypothesis: Reverse shoulder arthroplasty (RSA) yields unsatisfactory results after deltoid flap reconstruction due to defect of the deltoid muscle.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the outcome of 19 patients after failed deltoid flap reconstruction treated with RSA. Follow-up was after a mean of 4.5 years.

Results: Seven patients (37%) had 9 postoperative complications requiring totally 16 revision arthroscopies. Nonetheless, at latest follow-up, 17 patients had no or mild, 2 had moderate, and none had severe pain. Before RSA: 13 patients had a pseudoparesis. At latest follow-up, none of the patients had a pseudoparesis. Mean flexion was 121° (90°–160°). Abduction strength averaged 2.3 kg (range, 0.5 to 4.5 kg).

Conclusion: Despite of a localized defect of the deltoid muscle after deltoid flap repair, RSA can reliably be associated with a satisfactory outcome.

Bilateral reverse shoulder arthroplasty: Deficits of internal rotation and limitations in activities of daily living at one year follow-up

Barbara Wirth, Hans-Kaspar Schwzyzer, Laurent Audigé, Fabrizio Moro, Matthias Flury, Christoph Kolling
Schultess Klinik

Introduction: Bilateral reverse shoulder arthroplasty (RSA) is controversial because postoperative deficits in humeral rotation on both arms might lead to distinct limitations of activities of daily living (ADL). The aim of this study was to assess the postoperative outcome of staged bilateral RSA especially with respect to reaching a sufficient internal rotation.

Methods: 39 patients with staged bilateral RSA and a minimum follow-up of one year after the second arthroplasty were identified in our local shoulder arthroplasty register. Indications for surgery included rotator cuff deficiency and primary osteoarthritis (n = 33), then secondary osteoarthritis (n = 3). The mean age of the patients (30 women, 9 men) was 75 years (range 61 to 92 years) at the time of second RSA. The mean time between the first and second arthroplasty was 18 months (range 4 to 76 months). Preoperatively as well as 6, 12 and 24 months postoperatively the functional outcome was assessed using the Constant score, SPADI and quick DASH.

Reaching the lumbrosacral junction in the apley’s scratch test was determined as sufficient internal rotation in daily life.

Results: The rate of patients who experienced a loss of internal rotation from preoperative to 2 years postoperative was similar between the first and the second RSA (18% versus 11%, p = 0.75). One year after the second RSA 84% (31/37) reached the lumbosacral junction with at least one hand, after two years even 96% (23/24).

Overall, the Constant score of the second shoulder was significantly lower at the one year follow-up (mean 62.9 SD 20.2) than it was one year after the first RSA (mean 68.4 SD 12.6) (p = 0.045). Similarly, the SPADI showed lower values after the second operation compared to the first [mean 61.4 (SD 26.7) vs. 70.2 (20.5), p = 0.013]. These differences were reduced at the two year follow-up (p >0.05). All patients reported an improvement of their shoulder value one year after the first surgery, whereas 89% did so after the second surgery.

Conclusion: As known from the literature the limited internal rotation after RSA often remains a problem. However, most patients with bilateral RSA achieve a sufficient internal rotation of at least one side. The functional outcome of the later operated side is inferior to the first shoulder within the first 2 years after implantation. Despite persisting limitations in terms of function and ADL patients appreciate the benefit of bilateral RSA.
Influence of the glenosphere size on the functional outcome after reverse shoulder arthroplasty
Philipp Sabandal, Christian Jung, Laurent Audigé, Christoph Kolling, Hans-Kaspar Schwzyzer, Matthias Flury
Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Biomechanical studies could show that the glenosphere size of reverse shoulder arthroplasty (RSA) has an impact on the stability and the range of motion. However, published evidence from clinical data supporting this observation is scarce. The goal of this study was to compare the clinical outcome of two different glenosphere sizes of a single RSA type.

Material & Methods: Ninety-two patients treated by RSA after severe rotator cuff deficiency were documented in a prospective clinical register between 05/2006 and 03/2008. The glenosphere component was chosen with a diameter of 36 mm or 44 mm according to the preference of the surgeon. In addition to pre- and perioperative evaluation, patients attended follow-up examinations 6, 12, 24, and 60 months postoperatively including Constant Score (CS), Quick-DASH and SPADI. Both patient groups were compared according to baseline demographics and shoulder status. The effect of glenosphere size on functional scores was investigated using mixed models adjusted for gender, glenoid caudal-cranial distance (GCC) measured on x-rays and baseline scores.

Results: Male patients were twice as likely to receive a 44 mm glenosphere as female patients and most patients with GCC >45 mm or humerus head diameter >60 mm received a 44 mm glenosphere; significantly higher CS in all follow-ups (5y-FU: mean = 67; 95%CI = 54–70) than patients with a 36 mm diameter (mean = 21°, 95%CI=17-24) (p <0.001) – even after exclusion of patients with a positive lag sign (p = 0.044). No dislocations were experienced in both groups of patients and no prostheses had to be revised. The patient group with a higher glenosphere diameter tended to a slightly better Quick-DASH [5y-FU: mean (95%CI) = 65 (59-72) versus 60 (54-66)] and SPADI [71 (64-77) versus 67 (60-73)] (p >0.05).

Conclusion: Independent to gender and other baseline parameters such as baseline scores, RSA models with a higher glenosphere diameter seem to facilitate a clinically better shoulder function with higher rotational amplitude and a gradually higher patient satisfaction in the midterm.
Osteolytic changes associated with bio-absorbable cement restrictors in hip surgery
Matthias Erschbamer1, Christoph Knott1, Viljam Zdravkovic1, Johannas Grot1,2,2
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 2Kantonsspital Frauenfeld

Introduction: The use of bio-absorbable cement restrictors in hip surgery, constructed from PolyActive, eliminates the need for restrictor removal at future revision surgery. The safety and biocompatibility of these implants have been studied extensively, with no reports of adverse reactions. However, recent studies report an increased incidence of osteolysis around bio-absorbable cement restrictors in the femoral shaft. Even an associated periprosthetic aseptic loosening with atypical loosening pattern could be observed.

Conclusion: This study confirms osteolysis associated with the use of bio-absorbable cement restrictors in a biomechanically delicate zone distal to the prosthesis stem. This might increase the risk for periprosthetic fractures and could be the reason for early aseptic loosening. Thus we abandoned the use of bio-absorbable cement restrictors.

Objective and subjective measurement of the influence of femoral head size on early postoperative outcome in total hip arthroplasty
Jan Meester1, Pascal Scha0, Kamiar Aminian1, Estelle Lécureux, Richard Herzog1,2,2
1Luzerner Kantonsspital Wolhusen, 2LMAM EPFL, 3Start-Elite, Lausanne

Introduction: Much is known about the influence of femoral head size on wear rate, the probability of dislocation and range of motion in total hip arthroplasty. Data about the influence of femoral head size on gait parameters and subjective perception of the patients in total hip arthroplasty is rare.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the influence of femoral head size on objective gait parameters and on subjective perception of patients within the first postoperative year.

Methods: Double blinded, prospective, monocentric, cohort study of 57 hips (27 large femoral heads vs. 30 small femoral heads) in 55 patients undergoing THA for primary and secondary osteoarthritis at LUKS Wo with either a large (41–53 mm, Ø24.7 mm) or a small (28 mm) femoral head. Mean age of the cohort was 60 ± 10 years and mean BMI was 28.9 ± 6.3 kg/m². Follow-up assessments were done at 12 weeks, 6 months and 1 year postoperatively. Data included subjective evaluations (Oxford Hip Score, Hip Outcome Score-ADL, EQ-5D and Harris Hip Score) and objective gait parameters from 2 walking trials of at least 30 meters walking distance, performed at different speeds, using an ambulatory gait analysis system (Physilog®, BioAGM CH).

Results: The two groups were comparable in terms of age, body mass index, gender, pain and functional levels at baseline evaluation. At follow-up examinations patients’ subjective scores as well as ambulatory gait analysis including several temporal and spatial gait parameters at different walking speeds (slow, normal and fast), showed no significant differences between the two groups of femoral head size.

Conclusions: The present study demonstrates that femoral head size in total hip arthroplasty had neither influence on patient’s perception nor on objective gait parameters in early postoperative phase. In view of price difference and the possible disadvantages associated with the femoral head size, this study may provide clinical decision support. Further studies with longer follow-up time are required to measure long-term effects and potential superiority of large femoral head diameters.

Systemic metal ion levels in patients with modular neck total hip arthroplasties: A prospective cohort study
Jonathan Laurencenc1, Georgios Gkagkalis1, Marc Augsburger2, Hassan Hassani1, Fabio Becch1, Hannes A. Rüdiger3,4,5,6
1Hôpital Orthopédique, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois CHUV, Lausanne, 2Unité de Toxicologie et Chimie Forensiques – CHUV, 3Radiologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois CHUV, 4Lausanne, 5Biocompatibility of these implants have been studied extensively, with no reports of adverse reactions. However, recent studies report an increased incidence of osteolysis around bio-absorbable cement restrictors in the femoral shaft. Even an associated periprosthetic aseptic loosening with atypical loosening pattern could be observed.

Conclusion: This study confirms osteolysis associated with the use of bio-absorbable cement restrictors in a biomechanically delicate zone distal to the prosthesis stem. This might increase the risk for periprosthetic fractures and could be the reason for early aseptic loosening. Thus we abandoned the use of bio-absorbable cement restrictors.

Objective and subjective measurement of the influence of femoral head size on early postoperative outcome in total hip arthroplasty

Introduction: Much is known about the influence of femoral head size on wear rate, the probability of dislocation and range of motion in total hip arthroplasty. Data about the influence of femoral head size on gait parameters and subjective perception of the patients in total hip arthroplasty is rare.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the influence of femoral head size on objective gait parameters and on subjective perception of patients within the first postoperative year.

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Results: The two groups were comparable in terms of age, body mass index, gender, pain and functional levels at baseline evaluation. At follow-up examinations patients’ subjective scores as well as ambulatory gait analysis including several temporal and spatial gait parameters at different walking speeds (slow, normal and fast), showed no significant differences between the two groups of femoral head size.

Conclusions: The present study demonstrates that femoral head size in total hip arthroplasty had neither influence on patient’s perception nor on objective gait parameters in early postoperative phase. In view of price difference and the possible disadvantages associated with the femoral head size, this study may provide clinical decision support. Further studies with longer follow-up time are required to measure long-term effects and potential superiority of large femoral head diameters.
Double mobility cup total hip system in high risk patients: Preliminary results

Dominik Kaiser1, Patrick Zingg2, Claudio Dorè2
1, 2 University Hospitals of Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction: Double mobility cup systems (DMCS) gains increasingly acceptance, especially in patients with high risk for dislocation. In 2008 a DMCS (Versacem® and Versatif® DM Cup, 28 mm CoCr femoral head, UHMWPE Standard, Medacta, Switzerland®) was introduced in our department. Indication for primary and revision total hip arthroplasty (THA) was severe neuromuscular disease, cognitive dysfunction, severe irreversible abductor weakness, recurrent instability and multiple prior revisions. The aim of this investigation was to evaluate dislocation and cup revision rate after a minimum of 2 years.

Methods: Retrospective review of a consecutive series of DMCS implanted between 2008 and 2011. Patient’s demography, indication and complications were retrieved from patient’s charts. A questionnaire together with a WOMAC score at least two years postop was used to document complications and outcome. X-rays were evaluated for signs of loosening according to DeLee.

Results: 89 DMCS were implanted in 86 patients. Indications in 38 primary THAs were severe neuromuscular disease (14), severe irreversible abductor weakness (HAW) (9), cognitive dysfunction (8), physically handicapped (3), multiple hip surgery other than THA (3) and morbid obesity (1).

Indications in 51 revision THAs were recurrent dislocations (28), multiple hip prior surgeries (13), HAW (5), cognitive dysfunction (2), physically impairment (1), psychiatric disorder (1), neuromuscular disease (1), 18 of them were septic revisions. After a mean follow up of 42.8 months, 16 patients had died unrelated to surgery, 9 were lost to follow up and 61 patients were available for a standardized questionnaire and a WOMAC score. Dislocation occurred in 2 patients after trauma 2 and 4 months postop, respectively. 8 DMCS needed revision: 1 because of traumatic periprosthetic acetabular fracture 4 months postop, 3 because of persistent infection, 1 because of late hematogenous infection. In 2 cases new radiolucent lines in zone 1 were recognized. After a mean of 44.8 months the WOMAC improved significantly from 62 to 18.5 in the primary and from 60.5 to 4.2 in the revision group.

Conclusion: In respect of the difficult patient collective treated, the rate of dislocation was very low and justifies the continuous use of such systems. No disadvantages were recognized in this preliminary results.

In vitro analysis of wear on artificial hip joints induced by calcium sulphate used for local antibiotic therapy

Roman Heuberger1, Peter Wahl2, Jeanine Kriegl3, Emanuel Saulter4
1 RIMS Foundation, 2 Department for septic surgery, BG Trauma Center Frankfurt, Germany, 3 RIMS-Foundation, Bettlach, Switzerland, 4 Department for orthopaedic surgery, HFR Fribourg – Cantonal Hospital, Switzerland

Introduction: In case of implant-associated infection, removal or exchange of the implant most often is mandatory for treatment success. Even when sticking to strict selection criteria, implant retention is associated with high failure rates. Local antibiotic delivery is used frequently to optimize the drug efficacy. Calcium sulphate is a well-known resorbable carrier for local antibiotic delivery, which has the advantage of being comparatively soft. There is however concern regarding the ‘body’-wear caused by small calcium sulphate particles.

Methods: Inlays made of ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (UHMWPE) and cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) against 28 mm CoCrMo heads and 36 mm alumina pairings were tested in triplicate using a hip simulator (Endolab, Germany) according to ISO 14242-1:2012. All implants were provided by Mathys Ltd. (Bettlach, Switzerland), Calcium sulphate hemihydrate (VWR, 1-100 µm particle size) was added to the standard test liquid at 10 g/L, forming particles made of calcium sulphate dihydrate, i.e. gypsum.

Results: In presence of the gypsum particles, the wear rates of the polymer inlays were 36 ± 5 mg/MC for the UHMWPE and 9 ± 2 mg/MC respectively. The wear rates of the alumina inlays were 0.3 ± 0.1 mg/MC, both with and without gypsum. When no more gypsum was added to the metal-on-polymer articulations, the wear rates decreased. For the UHMWPE it was in the range of the reference samples, while for the XLPE inlays it remained slightly higher than the references. All heads and inlays showed few scratches, but there was no obvious difference between the articulations with and without gypsum particles.

Conclusion: Neither the alumina articulations nor the CoCrMo heads were affected by the gypsum particles since gypsum is a relatively soft material. Only the much softer polyethylene inlays showed 40–70% higher wear during exposure compared to controls, but they recovered at least partially when no more particles were added. For ceramic-on-polyethylene articulations and mixed ceramics even less effects by the gypsum is expected, since these heads/materias are more scratch resistant. Thus calcium sulphate might be used as antibiotic carrier even in the presence of a hip arthroplasty without fearing excessive third-body wear. This opens new options for joint preservation instead of exchange or removal in case of infection.

Does stem design influence component positioning in total hip arthroplasty using a minimal invasive posterolateral approach?

Wenzel Waldstein1, Christian Marles2, Tom Schmidt-Braekling3, Friedrich Boettner4
1 Spital Oberengadin, Samedan, 2 Universitésspital Heidelberg, 3 Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: MIS total hip arthroplasty (THA) using short bone-preserving femoral components has the potential advantage of reduced soft-tissue trauma. However, there is limited data on the accuracy of component positioning and the reconstructive potential of these implants when a MIS approach is used. The objectives of the present study were (1) to compare the reconstruction of hip geometry and leg length using a short bone-preserving stem with a straight standard-length stem in MIS posterolateral THA and (2) to assess whether a MIS posterolateral approach allows for accurate positioning and orientation of the acetabular component with reference to reported target zones.
Methods: We retrospectively reviewed postoperative AP pelvis radiographs of 272 THAs. Group 1 received a cementless straight standard stem and Group 2 cementless short bone-preserving stem. Cup anteversion, inclination, femoral offset, acetabular offset and leg-length-discrepancy was measured. Hip offset was defined as the sum of acetabular and femoral offset. The target zones were defined as 10°–30° anteversion and 30°–50° inclination. Reconstruction of joint mechanics and leg length was reported with reference to the contralateral side.

Results: There was no significant difference between mean reconstruction areas two hips (11.1%) required acetabular and femoral offset. The target version and inclination.

Conclusion: Accurate reconstruction of hip geometry and leg length was observed for both stem designs and both designs appear to be viable options in MS posterior lateral THA. The used minimally invasive posterolateral approach allows for accurate positioning of the acetabular component with reference to reported target zones for cup version and inclination.

Acetabular reinforcement ring: only a revision implant? A minimum 20-year follow up

Marc Claudio Attinger1, Remy Flückiger2, Pascal Cyrril Haefeli1, Peter Balmer2, Frank Michael Klenke1, Klaus Arno Siebenrock1

Introduction: The acetabular reinforcement ring with a hook (ARRH) was originally designed for arthroplasty revision surgery and hips with acetabular deficiency. Due to its excellent results in such difficult cases the so-called Ganz reinforcement ring was also applied for standard primary total hip arthroplasty. This study evaluated the long-term results of the ARRH used in primary total hip arthroplasty after a minimum follow-up of 20 years.

Materials and Methods: 210 patients (241 hips) who underwent THA with an ARRH between April 1987 and December 1991 were evaluated after a mean follow-up of 23.7 years (range 21.1–26.1 years). Patient history, clinical status with hip scores (Merle d’Aubigne, Harris Hip Score) and routine x-rays were obtained. Direct cox regeneration analysis was used to identify independent negative predictors for failure of the primary THA (revision surgery).

Results: Out of the 241 hips, 23 hips (9.5%) were lost to follow-up and 110 patients (124 hips, 51.5%) deceased without having revision surgery after a mean of 12.8 years (range 0.3–24.4 years) after surgery. 83 patients (93 hips, 36.6%) were available for follow-up evaluation. The mean Merle d’Aubigne increased from 8 points to 15 points (P < 0.001). The HHS reached a mean of 82.3 at the minimal 20-year follow-up. 18 out of the 241 hips (7.5%) were revised after a mean of 15.7 years (range 7.4–24.9 years) years. Survival probability of the cup at the 20-year follow up was 0.93–0.99, survival probability for the whole implant was 0.91 (95% confidence interval, 0.86–0.96). In 14 hips (77.8%) the cause for revision was infection (ARRH), re-revision was seen in 3 hips (1.6%). A total of 23 patients (26.6%) cups fell within the target zone for both inclination and anteversion.

Conclusion: The 20-year survivorship data, which are comparable to modern cementless acetabular implants support the ARRH’s role in primary total hip arthroplasty, especially with difficult acetabular morphology. The ARRH benefits from minimal acetabular reaming and prevention of a high hip center and cup medialization. Our data outlines the importance of preventing a steep inclination of the ARRH for long-term survivorship.

Effect of Femoral Offset Loss on Muscle Moment Arms in Total Hip Arthroplasty: A 3D biomechanical analysis

Hannes Rüdiger1, Valerie Parvex2, Alexandre Tenier2

Hospital Orthopédique, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois CHUV, Lausanne, 1Laboratoire de biomécanique en orthopédie – EPFL Lausanne

The importance of an accurate femoral reconstruction for a good functional outcome is well established. However, no data is available on the effect of offset changes on muscle moment arms are scarce. The purpose of this study was to calculate the impact of a 20% of femoral offset on abductor moment arms in a 3D anatomical model of the hip.

Methods: Pre-operative CT scans of 15 patients undergoing total hip arthroplasty were used to build 15 patient-specific finite elements models. Each model included the pelvis, the femur, a total hip prosthesis, and the gluteus medius, minimus and maximus. The femur and pelvis were assumed rigid, as the prosthesis. A hyperelastic deformation law was used for the muscles. In each case, abductor moment arms were calculated during passive flexion-extension and abduction-adduction within a range of motion observed during a gait cycle. These muscle moment arms were calculated in two cases: 1) an ideal anatomical reconstruction of the hip, 2) a reconstruction of the hip with 20% loss of femoral offset. Assuming that 20% loss of femoral offset might result in a maximum loss of abductor moment arm of the same distance in millimeters, the changes of moment arms from case 1 to case 2 were normalized with this effect value for each patient, and reported as a percentage.

Results: Among all patients, the anatomical femoral offset was 37.9 ± 7.4 mm. A loss of 20% femoral offset corresponded to a femoral offset of 26 ± 1.5 mm (from 5.5 to 10.3 mm). In average, a loss of 20% of offset led to a loss of abductor moment arm of 58%. This effect was more pronounced for the gluteus medius than for the gluteus minimus. In average, a loss of 20% of offset led to a loss of flexion moment arm of 25%. Of note, the 20% offset decrease could change some muscle fibers from an agonist to an antagonist action during flexion.

Conclusion: In summary, the loss of muscle moment arm was approximately half the loss of the femoral offset. In addition, some muscle fibers became antagonist. Therefore, a 20% loss of femoral offset might have a negative impact on proprioception.

Effect of stem geometry on radiological changes of two types of the cemented Müller type straight stems

Martin Clausski1, Daniel Brandenberger2, Liliana Bolliger1, Peter Emil Ochsner3, Thomas Ilchmann1

Kantonsspital Baselland, 2Universitätsklinikum Leipzig, 3Kantonsspital Baselland

Introduction: Two types of the cemented Müller type straight stems (UKBB), 3Hirslanden-Klinik St. Anna

Cemented hip stems can be fixed either force-closed or shape-closed. We used the Müller straight stem (MSS) and the Virtec straight stem (VSS) which had an identical ap shape and surface finish but different geometrical cross-sections. Both stems are double-tapered, the MSS had an oval cross-section with longitudinal fins, thus being thicker in the sagittal plane, filling a bigger part of the proximal femoral canal.

Between July 1996 and July 2003 711 hips were randomized (356 MSS, 355 VSS) and followed prospectively. Groups did not differ in age, gender, diagnosis and used cups. We performed Kaplan-Meier (KM) analysis using aseptic loosening of the stem as endpoint. Radiographs with >10 years were analyzed for osteolysis in the Gruen-Zones (GZ).

182 hips died <10 years follow-up unrelated to surgery (MSS 96; VSS 86 hips) and without revision surgery. 19 hips (2.7%) were lost to follow-up. 24 hips (3.4%) have been revised for aseptic loosening with no differences between the groups (p = 0.151). KM survival with aseptic loosening of the stem as the endpoint was 96.4% (MSS) and 98.1% (VSS, p = 0.204) at 10 years. 17 of 22 stems revised for aseptic loosening showed osteolysis on the final radiograph prior to revision. The MSS showed more osteolysis in GZ2 (p = 0.004) and GZ7 (p = 0.020) compared to VSS. At 10 years, 68 of 399 available radiographs showed osteolysis (MSS: 40 (20%); VSS: 28 (14%); p = 0.057). Most osteolysis were found in GZ6 (41, 10%) & GZ7 (34, 9%).

Both stems showed excellent and comparable 10 years survival. We found less osteolysis with the VSS than with the MSS. This might be due to a bigger proximal cross-section resulting in better cement penetration and sealing of the medullary canal.
Primary THAs (28 mm head, cemented stem, ceramic-polyethylene or metal-on-metal bearing) with linear or focal femoral osteolytic lesions detected at routine follow-up visits (median time since surgery 60 months) and confirmed independently by two orthopaedic surgeons. The outcome of interest was the progression of osteolysis, which was evaluated qualitatively by two orthopaedic surgeons blinded to the patients’ characteristics, on standard a.-p. and axial radiographs. Statin use was systematically assessed at the time of surgery and at each follow-up visit. We compared the risk of osteolysis progression in those who took statins during follow-up with those who did not (ever-users vs. never-users). Adjustment was performed for age, sex, BMI and ASA score, using the propensity score method.

Results: 91 THAs (mean age 63 years, 52% women, 71% primary OA, 89% ceramic-polyethylene bearing) were included. Of those, 8 THAs (8.8%) were in patients who reported statin use. Users compared to never-users were more often women, older, and had higher BMI and ASA scores. Progression occurred over a median follow-up time of 64 months in 67 (74%) THAs. Osteolytic lesions progressed on 3/8 (37.5%) occasions among statin users compared to 64/83 (77.1%) occasions in never-users. The crude odds ratio (OR) was 0.2 (95% CI 0.04–0.8, p = 0.026), and the adjusted OR was 0.2 (95% CI 0.03, 0.8; p = 0.032).

Conclusion: Osteolysis progression around a cemented stem was substantially less frequent in statin users as compared with never-users.

Strong association between smoking and the risk of revision in patients with metal-on-metal total hip arthroplasty

Anne Lübbeke-Wolff1, Kenneth Rothmann1, Guido Garavaglia2, Christophe Barret1, Panayiotis Christofilopoulos3, Richard Stern, Pierre Hoffmeyer1

1Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, 2Boston University, 3Hôpital de Bellinzone, 4Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève

Introduction: Thus far the ability to predict who will develop early prosthesis failure following the insertion of a metal-on-metal (MoM) bearing total hip arthroplasty (THA) has been very limited. We prosthesis failure following the insertion of a metal-on-metal (MoM) bearing.

Methods: Consecutive case series of 278 patients (290 hips) who underwent primary total hip arthroplasty for any type of etiology using the direct anterior minimally invasive approach between November 2009 and January 2012. Patients are only included in the study if they took part in a 1-year evaluation. A statistical analysis has been performed on these 290 cases in order to investigate if: radiolucency signs on the femur according to gruen classification are combined with discomfort or pain, anatomical shape of the femur (dorr classification), patient characteristics or implant details.

Results: Radiolucencies, if present, were concentrated in the proximal zone: 8.6% of the radiolucencies bigger than 2 mm were in zone 1 and 3.1% in zone 7. No critical radiolucent lines were reported in the distal zone. Most patients (82.8%) were pain free, the others experienced slight (12.1%), mild (2.1%) or moderate pain (0.7%). There is no correlation between radiolucency and anatomical shape of the femur (dorr classification), patient characteristics or implant details.

An interesting point was highlighted when looking at the date of surgery: 2010 12.9% of patients (23 out of 178) had radiolucencies bigger than 2mm in zone 1, whereas in 2011 the occurrence of radiolucencies decreased to 1.8% (2 out of 112).

Conclusions: The decrease in occurrence of radiolucencies in 2011 is probably due to the changes introduced to practice: removing a minimal amount of bone from the great trochanter and the adoption of a less aggressive rehabilitation protocol by extending the need for using crutches during first six post-operative weeks (allowed full weight bearing).

In conclusion, although the anterior minimally invasive approach gives patients an almost painfree and faster recovery after surgery, a less aggressive rehabilitation protocol is needed to facilitate the bone-implant osteointegration process.
Assessment of teres minor in massive rotator cuff tears

Alexandre Lädermann1, Philippe Collin2, Gilles Walch3
1Division of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, La Tour Hospital, Geneva, 2Saint-Gregoire Private Hospital Center, France, 3Department of Orthopaedics, Shoulder Unit, Santy Orthopaedic Center and Jean Mermoz Hospital, France

Introduction: Assessment of teres minor integrity is integral to the management of massive cuff tears. In patients with a massive cuff tear, involvement of teres minor can adversely affect the results of both tendon transfers and reverse shoulder arthroplasty. However, clinical tests designed to assess this musculotendinous unit have not been validated in the setting of massive cuff tears. We aim to describe the accuracy of the Hornblowers Sign, the External Rotation Lag Sign (ERLS) and Drop Sign for the prediction of teres minor integrity.

Methods: This was a prospective multi-centered study of 100 patients with massive cuff tears that were examined by 2 shoulder surgeons independently. These clinical tests were compared to the results of CT arthrograms and arthroscopy findings for accuracy, PPV, NPV, sensitivity and specificity. Likelihood ratios were calculated for each test.

Results: The most accurate test was an ERLS >40 degrees with a sensitivity of 100% and specificity of 93%. A ERLS >10 degrees had an accuracy of 59% (sensitivity 100% and specificity 51%). The Hornblowers sign had an accuracy of 75% (sensitivity 93% and specificity 71%). The Drop sign had an accuracy of 86% (sensitivity 82% and specificity of 88%).

Conclusion: A large ERLS (a lag >40 degrees) is the most clinically useful test for assessing teres minor. It appears superior to previously described tests. This study validates its use in the setting of massive cuff tears.

Interest of anatomical locking plates in the treatment of complex proximal ulnar fractures

Nigis Luca, Philippe Adam, Sylvain Steinmetz, Francois Bonnomet, Benoît Schenck, David Brinckert, Matthieu Ehlinger
Hopitaux universitaire de Strasbourg

Introduction: Fractures of the proximal end of the ulna are rare. Usually their treatment is surgical. The holding of the material is essential to ensure good radio-clinical results. We report the experience of treatment with anatomical locking plate on complex proximal ulnar fractures with the aim of critical analysis of the results. A hypothesis in this equipment achieves good results but with a sometimes limited clinical tolerance.

Material and methods: From September 2009 to December 2011, 28 patients were treated with anatomical locking plate LCP. Six were excluded because the file was incomplete. The series included 22 patients (11M, 11F) with an average age of 55.7 years. Twelve were active. The dominant arm was reached 11 times. There were 15 types II and 7 types III according to the classification of the Mayo Clinic. These fractures were related to 9 fractures of the radial head and 5 fractures of the coronoid process. Functional recovery was evaluated according to the Broberg-Morrey scores. The radiographic evaluation measured the quality of the reduction, the healing and the existence of ossification or osteoarthrits.

Results: The average follow up of these 22 patients was 20 months. The flexion was 131° and the deficit of extension 9.5° for a pronation of 79° and a supination of 80.5°. The average score of Broberg and Morrey was 86.7 and the average score of MEPS was 86.6. All patients consolidated within 10.6 weeks. 6 signs of osteoarthritis, 3 ossifications and 1 synostosis were observed. 1 infection was treated by washing and an antibiotic therapy. The ablation of the material was performed 6 times. No prognostic factor was highlighted.

Discussion-conclusion: Our hypothesis is confirmed. The reported results are encouraging and comparable to the data of the literature.

The main critical point is the clinical tolerance of the plate with the existence of a frequent posterior conflict requiring the ablation of the material (27%). A rigorous inserting of these plates is necessary.
The prognostic value of Hamada classification on functional outcome after reverse shoulder arthroplasty

Christian Jung, Katharina Stahnke, Laurent Audiger, Matthias Flury, Hans-Kasper Schwyzer, Christoph Kolling
1Schulthess Klinik Zürich, 2Centrum für Muskeloskultale Chirurgie der Charité Berlin

Introduction: Several radiological classifications exist for the documentation of cuff tear arthropathy (CTA). Their clinical value for predicting the clinical outcome after reverse shoulder arthroplasty (RSA) has been sparsely investigated. The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between the preoperative severity of CTA, as classified by Hamada et al. (1990) (modified by Walch et al. 2003), and functional outcome 2 years after RSA.

Methods: Between 07/2009 and 07/2011 a total of 351 shoulders (332 patients) were treated with primary RSA because of CTA. A set of clinical scores (including Constant score [CS] and SPADI) were prospectively recorded in our local arthroplasty registry, preoperatively and 6, 12 and 24 months postoperatively. All preoperative X-rays were retrospectively assessed by an independent examiner using the Hamada classification. The clinical outcome scores were compared between the Hamada groups at each follow-up time point using the Kruskal Wallis test. Multivariable mixed models, taking into account the influence factors age, gender and preoperative functional score, were fitted.

Results: The mean age of patients (69 % female) was 75 years (range 53-92 years) at time of implantation. When classified by Hamada, the distribution of the groups was: 11% grade 1–3 (n = 40), grade 4A 27% (n = 96), grade 4B 36 % (n = 127), grade 5 25 % (n = 88). There were statistically significant relationships between grades of the Hamada classification and both the Constant score and SPADI. Patients with a CTA grade 1 to 4A reached a CS of 70.8 ± 9.4, for grade 4B 63.4 ± 17.6 and for grade 5 63.6 ± 14.7 (p = 0.001). Patients of grade 5 started with lower baseline values in the CS and SPADI, but achieved a similar functional gain for the CS from +35.7 ± 16 as the group grade 1–3 (+34.7 ± 15) and +39.4 ± 25.6 in the SPADI (+41.3 ± 20.2 grade 1–3).

Conclusion: Patients with preoperative Hamada classification of grades 1 to 4A can be expected to achieve a good functional result after implantation of RSA. For patients reaching most severe grades 4B and 5 preoperatively, the expected outcome at 2 years appears more limited. Nevertheless our results suggest that patients receiving a RSA can expect a similar gain in shoulder function irrespective of the severity of their pre-operative CTA. In that respect, the level of detail of the Hamada classification appears of limited value for the prediction of clinical outcome after RSA.

The 3D subluxation in a non-pathological versus a primary glenohumeral osteoarthritis population

Matthias Jacxsens, Andreas Müller, Lieven De Wilde, Alexander Van Tongeren, Victor Valderrabano
1Universitätsklinikum Basel, 2Ghent University Hospital

Introduction: According to the Walch classification, based on the static posterior subluxation of the humeral head (SPS), type A shoulders are anterior subluxated and type B shoulders are posterior subluxated. Currently, SPS is measured on a two-dimensional (2D) computed tomography (CT) scan. Recent studies have shown an inherent error for 2D measurements of the shoulder due to positional errors. Three-dimensional (3D) reconstruction can be used to overcome this problem. The aim of this study was to evaluate the SPS in a normal population and in patients with primary glenohumeral arthritis with the use of a newly developed 3D subluxation index (SI).

Materials & Methods: A non-pathological group of 151 glenohumeral CT scans and a pathological group of 112 glenohumeral CT scans with primary osteoarthritis were analysed. First, the adapted SI according to Gerber was measured on all CT scans. The pathological group was classified into type A (centred) or type B (subluxated) according to the Walch classification. Next, 3D reconstruction of all shoulders was performed and the 3D SI was calculated. The midpoint of the glenoid circle as its origin. Next, the centre of the 3D reconstructed humeral head (with radius R) was projected to the X-axis and defined as A. Finally, the 3D SI, defined as (A+R)/R, was calculated in all shoulders. The inter- and intra-rater reliability was measured.

Results: The inter- and intra-rater reliability for the 3D SI was excellent. According to the subluxation in 2D, 55 shoulders were classified as type A and 57 as type B. The 3D SI was significant (p ≤ .001) bigger than the 2D SI in the non-pathological group (2D: 48.69%; 3D: 51.54%), in type A (2D: 47.58%; 3D: 55.56%) and in type B (2D: 61.50%; 3D: 67.61%) shoulders. The 3D SI of type A and type B shoulders were significantly bigger (p < 0.001) as in the normal population. The 3D SI of type B shoulders was significantly bigger (p < 0.001) as in type A shoulders.

Conclusion: This newly developed reproducible 3D SI shows that the conventional 2D SI understimates the SPS in both non-pathological as well as pathological shoulders and that the humeral head of type A and type B omarthritis is significantly more posterior subluxated compared to the normal population.

Outcome of 70 fingertip amputation injuries with the semi occlusive dressing

Dominik Hoigné, Martino Meoli, Jörg Grünen, Kantonsspital St. Gallen, "Krankenhaus- und Wiederherstellungschirurgie, Kantonsspital St. Gallen

Introduction: Treatment of fingertip amputation injuries with the semi occlusive dressing has been known for a long time. The results are usually outstanding. Nevertheless, this treatment is still not included in major textbooks. The therapy is even controversially discussed by some major centers. Particularly controversial is the indication of this therapy in case of exposed bone, where local flaps offer an established alternative.

Methods: During a period of 2 years, we treated 70 consecutive patients with amputations of the distal phalanx and distal to the insertion of the flexor digitorum profundus tendon by the semi occlusive protocol. After a mean follow-up of 15.6 month, we conducted an examination regarding scar formation, two point discrimination, sensibility with monofilament and subjective acceptance of treatment. The extent of soft tissue regeneration was determined sonographically and by x-ray.

Results: The mean treatment duration of the semi occlusive dressing was 5.4 weeks. All patients were very satisfied with the result. An actual scar formation could only be detected in a few cases. The regenerated fingertips show aesthetic forms, papillary ridges and are resilient. The static two-point discrimination was 4.8 mm (SD 1.9 mm), the dynamic two-point discrimination was 3.7 mm (SD 1.6 mm) and the sensibility tested with the monofilament showed a mean filament size of 2.98, this represents almost normal perception. The soft tissue regeneration showed an extent of 85% compared to the contralateral uninjured side.

Conclusion: In view of the very good results the occlusive dressing therapy is our gold standard for all amputations in the distal phalanx. We will present our treatment technique and protocol, as well as our results and contribute to a greater acceptance of this treatment.

Early Adjacent Segment Add-On Surgery and End of Construct Revision Surgery after Multilevel Lumbar Lateral Interbody Fusion

Mazda Farshad, Nadja Farshad-Amacker, Alexander Aichmair, Federico P. Girardi, Andrew A. Sama, Frank P. Crammisa, Alex P. Hughes, Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: Lateral lumbar interbody fusion (LLIF) has become a common procedure to treat degeneration of lumbar segments with a reliable fusion rate. However, a solid fusion and therefore a stiff construct can create enhanced stresses at the adjacent segments, particularly in multi-level LLIF. The aim of this study was to find the rates for add-on surgery for adjacent segment degeneration after multi-level LLIF ending at L5 and to compare to the rate of revision surgery for pseudarthrosis at the L5/S1 level in those fused below L5.

Methods: Patients with a LLIF of L1 or 2 to L5 (n = 128) were divided into those with (n = 51) and without (n = 77) fusion below L5, and postoperatively followed for an average of 15 months to determine the rate of add-on surgery for distal adjacent segment disease (DASD) or revision surgery at LS/S1 for pseudarthrosis, respectively. Further, the rate for revision for proximal adjacent segment disease (PASD) was documented.

Results: Add-on surgery to treat DASD was performed in 10 of the 77 patients (13%) without prior L5/S1 fusion after a mean of 13 months. In contrast, revision for a pseudarthrosis at L5/S1 was needed in 5 out of the 51 patients (10%) with prior L5/S1 fusion at index surgery (n.s.) after a mean of 15 months. Only one of the 16 patients with ALIF at L5/S1 needed revision surgery for LS/S1 pseudarthrosis. Overall, eight patients (6%) were treated for a PASD. Most of the PASD developed in patients with LLIF starting at L2 (n = 6 of 9).

Conclusion: In the process of planning for multi-level lumbar fusion surgery, the surgeon must weigh the risk of pseudarthrosis versus DASD in whether to include the L5-S1 segment in the construct, since the rate of end of construct pseudarthrosis is nearly as high as rate for add-on surgery for distal ASD. If the L5-S1 segment is included, ALIF seems to be a reliable option.
Is the iliolumbar ligament a reliable identifier of the L5 vertebra in lumbosacral transitional anomalies?

Nadja Farshad-Amacker, Brett Luri, Richard J. Herzog, Mazda Farshad
Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: The origin of the iliolumbar ligament (ILL) has been suggested as a reliable identifier of the L5 vertebra. However, there are no sufficiently sized studies to determine the value of the ILL as an identifier of the L5 vertebra in cases of a lumbosacral transitional vertebra (LSTV).

Methods: After IRB approval of this retrospective study, 71 of 770 patients with LSTV type 2 or higher (case group) and 62 of 611 subjects without LSTV II or higher with confirmed L5-level were included. The level(s) of origin of the ILL was documented by two independent radiologists using coronal MR-images. The interobserver agreement was statistically analyzed using weighted kappa/kappa (wk/k) and a Fischer’s exact test was used to assess the value of the ILL as identifier of the L5 vertebra.

Results: The ILL originated from the L5 vertebra in 100% of the controls but also included other vertebra in 5%. In the case group (LSTV), the ILL originated only from L5 in 25–38%, at least partially in 77–85% (including origins from other vertebra in 39–59%) and had no origin from L5 in 15–23%. The overall interreader agreement was good (wk = 0.69). Both readers completely agreed that an ILL was always present and its origin always involved the last lumbar vertebra.

Conclusion: The level of the origin of the ILL is unreliable for identification of the L5 vertebra in the setting of a LSTV type 2 or higher or segmentation anomalies.

Patient-rated outcomes of lumbar fusion in geriatric patients: does age matter?

Daniel A. Mielke, Jan-Jeanne Morbarth, Anne F. Mannion, Jan-Karl Burkhardt, Ralph Schlaf, François Porchet, Frank S. Kleinbüch, Tamas F. Fekete, Dezső Jeszenszky
Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Current demographic changes are characterized by population aging, such that the surgical treatment of degenerative spine conditions in the elderly is gaining increasing relevance. However, there is a general reluctance to consider spinal fusion procedures in this patient age group due to the increased likelihood of complications. The aim of this study was to assess the patient-rated outcome and complication rates associated with lumbar fusion procedures in three different age groups.

Methods: This was a retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data from consecutive patients who underwent one to three level instrumented spondylodesis of the lumbar spine between 2004–2011 due to disc degeneration or without spondylothesis. Data from a single center were obtained from the International Spine Tango Register. Before surgery, patients completed the multidimensional Core Outcome Measures Index (COMI), and at 3 and 12 months after surgery they completed the COMI as well as items rating Global Treatment Outcome (GTO) and satisfaction with care. Patients were divided into three groups according to their age: younger (YG, ≥50 y; n = 317), older (OG, ≥65 y <80 y; n = 350), and geriatric group (GG; ≥80 y; n = 40).

Results: 707 consecutive patients were included. The preoperative comorbidity status differed significantly (p <0.0001) between the three age groups with the highest scores in the GG. General medical complications during surgery were lower in the YG (7%) compared to the OG (13.4%); p = 0.006) and GG (17.5%; p = 0.007). Duration of hospital stay was longer in the GG compared to the YG (10.0 vs 10.8 days; p = 0.006). There were no significant group differences (p >0.05) for any of the COMI domains covering pain, function, symptom-specific well-being, general quality of life, and social and work disability, at either 3 months or 12 months follow-up. Similarly, there were no differences (p >0.05) between the age groups for GTO and patient-rated satisfaction at follow-up.

Conclusions: Preoperative comorbidity and general medical complications during lumbar fusion for degenerative disorders of the lumbar spine are both greater in geriatric patients than in younger patients. However, patient-rated outcome is as good in the elderly as it is in younger age groups. These data suggest that geriatric age per se is not a contraindication to instrumented fusion for lumbar degenerative disease and/or degenerative spondylolisthesis.

Spinal fusion is associated with increased adjacent segment disc degeneration, without clinical consequence: long-term follow-up of four RCTs

Anne F. Mannion, Gunnar Leivestad, Jens-Ivar Brox, Peter Fritzell, Olle Hägg, Jeremy Fairbank

Schulthess Klinik, Zürich, University of Tromsø, Norway, Oslo University Hospital and Oslo University, Norway, Neuroortopedisk Centrum Jönköping, Sweden, Spine Center Göteborg, Sweden, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, UK

Introduction: There is ongoing debate as to whether adjacent segment disc degeneration (ASDD) represents the result of increased mechanical stress on discs adjacent to the fusion site (i.e., accelerated degeneration) or is the natural process of pre-existing degenerative disease expressing itself over time. We carried out a combined long term follow-up (LTFU) of patients from four randomized controlled trials of operative versus non-operative treatment for chronic low back pain to examine the influence of spinal fusion on adjacent segment disc space height as an indicator of disc degeneration at LTFU.

Methods: 369/767 (48%) of the patients agreed to undergo radiographic imaging at LTFU (mean 13 ± 4 years post-randomization). Disc space height and posteroanterior displacement (i.e. listhesis in posterior or anterior directions) were measured for each lumbar segment from plain standing lateral radiographs using a validated computer-assisted distortion compensated roentgen analysis (DCRA) technique. Values were reported in units of standard deviations (SDs) above or below age and gender-adjusted normal values. Patient-rated outcomes included the Oswestry Disability Index and pain scales.

Results: Radiographs were usable in 355/369 (96%) patients (259 of whom had received fusion and 96, non-operative treatment by the time of the LTFU). Both treatment groups showed significantly lower values for disc space height of the adjacent segment at LTFU compared with age and gender-adjusted norm values. There was a significant difference between treatment groups for the disc space height of the cranial adjacent segment at LTFU (in both as-treated and intention-to-treat analyses). The mean treatment effect of fusion on adjacent segment disc space height was -0.44 SDs (95% CI, -0.77 to -0.11; p = 0.01); there was no significant group difference for posteroanterior displacement (0.18 SDs (95% CI, -0.28 to 0.64, p = 0.45)). There was no significant effect of adjacent level disc space height or posteroanterior displacement on adjusted Oswestry or pain scores at LTFU (part correlations in multiple regression, r = 0.010–0.05; p >0.33).

Conclusion: Compared with non-operative treatment, fusion was associated with a significantly lower disc space height at the adjacent segment after an average of 13 years follow-up. However, the reduced disc space height had no influence on patient self-rated outcomes at LTFU.

The association between morphological stenosis grade and the outcome of surgery for lumbar spinal stenosis

Anne F. Mannion, Tamas F. Fekete, Andrea Luca, Constantin Schizas

Schulthess Klinik, Zürich, Orthopaedic Department, CHUV, Lausanne

Introduction: A new measure of radiological lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS), based on the rootlet/cerebrospinal fluid ratio rather than the dural sac cross-sectional area (DSCA), was recently introduced. Its proponents maintain that grades C & D (severe/extreme LSS) represent surgical indications while grades A & B (no/moderate LSS) should be treated conservatively. However, there has been no external validation of the method or the aforementioned rationale for surgical indications. We sought to validate the new grading system by relating patient outcomes to the stenosis grade, rated blindly by an experienced, external investigator.

Methods: Patients were identified from our outcomes database (nested within Eurospine’s Spine Tango Registry) by searching the appropriate documentation fields. Cases were cross-checked (for validity of inclusion) by an independent surgeon, blind to outcomes. T2 axial magnetic resonance images from 80 randomly selected patients were blinded for evaluation: 65 from patients (71.5 ± 7.7 y) who had been diagnosed and treated surgically for LSS, 15 from patients (53.7 ± 14.7 y) (with e.g. disc degeneration) selected as “controls”. Classification was based on dural sac morphology: Grades A & B showed cerebrospinal fluid presence while grades C & D showed none. In examining the correlation between outcome and the Core Outcome Measures Index (COMI) and stenosis grades, the worst grade of all levels was used.
Results: In the control group, 15/15 (100%) patients were (at worst) grade A. In the LSS group, 14/65 (21.5%) were grade A, 8/65 (12.3%) grade B, 29/65 (44.7%) grade C, and 14/65 (21.5%) grade D. There was a tendency (n.s.) for higher preoperative “worst pain (back or leg)” with increasing stenosis grade, but no significant correlation with any other baseline outcome measures. Multiple regression analysis, accounting for potential confounders, revealed significant associations between stenosis grade and the improvement (preop to 12 mo postop) in pain and COMI score. In each case, a higher grade resulted in a better outcome. The difference between A and D grades for the improvements in COMI (2.6 points) and worst pain (3.9 points) were clinically relevant.

Conclusion: This initial study suggest that the new grading system, which gives most consideration to the impingement of neural tissue, may represent a more appropriate clinical tool than DSCA and be of prognostic value. It should be evaluated in larger prospective studies.

Concave side opening wedge osteotomy with growing rod for the treatment of congenital scoliosis in young children
Dezső Jeszenszky, Daniel Haschtmann, Frank S. Kleinstück, Martin Sutter, Andreas Eggespuehler, Tamas F. Fekete
Schulthess Klinik

Introduction: Unilateral unsegmented bar has a poor prognosis if left untreated. Surgical treatment is often necessary and an array of techniques are available. These techniques aim to either slow down/stop growth contralateral to the unsegmented bar or remove the region causing unbalanced growth (hemivertebra excision, vertebral resection). As a result, the spinal column is shortened. Further options comprise distraction-based lengthening procedures including VEPTR. Such lengthening methods include several segments and not only affect the overall correction, it is usually necessary to apply growing rods. The results of such a technique, the opening wedge osteotomy, are analysed and described here.

Materials and methods: 8 consecutive patients with congenital scoliosis due to unsegmented bar were treated with the combination of a concave side opening wedge osteotomy through a posterior approach followed by application of growing rods. Their radiological and clinical data were evaluated prospectively.

Results: There were 8 patients, with an average follow-up of 6.6 (0.5 to 16) years. The mean age at surgery was 4.3 (2.5–5.5) years. Before surgery, the mean scoliotic curve was 56.0° (41°–68°). After surgery, the curve averaged 28.5° (20°–44°), yielding a correction of 27.5° (49%). There were 2 intraoperative monitoring alerts in the first 3 cases, and the curve remained stable in one week in those 2 cases. 1 patient was reoperated due to spinal imbalance. There were 3 cases with implant-related complications during the course of growing rod treatment. No patients showed any neurological abnormalities at the final follow up.

Conclusion: Concave side opening-wedge osteotomy using a posterior approach in combination with growing rod is an effective and safe surgical technique for correction of congenital scoliosis.

Osteosynthesis Of Proximal Periprosthetic Femur Fractures With A Polyaloxial Locking Plate System:
Results Of A Prospective Multicenter Study
Nicolas Kesterke1, Monika Nuber2, Javier Vaquero3, Francisco Chanãa1, Edgar Mayã1, Johanns Erhardt1
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 2Klinik für Unfall-, Hand- und Wiederherstellungschirurgie, Klinikum Augsburg, Augsburg, Germany, 3Hospital General, Universitario Gregorio Marañon, Madrid, Spain, 4Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Kantonsspital St. Gallen, 5Klinik für Unfall- und Wiederherstellungschirurgie, Klinikum Augsburg, Augsburg

Introduction: The treatment of periprosthetic fractures around total hip arthroplasty with a cemented stem. The main complication is a secondary loss of reduction and cut-out of the cephalic screw. Other complications include femoral neck shortening, lateralisation of the cephalic hip screw or pseudarthrosis development. We describe a rare case of femoral neck fracture three years after a periprosthetic fracture treated with an intramedullary nail without breakage of the implant.

Case report: A 69-year-old woman presents to the emergency unit with right hip pain and inability to bear weight after a fall from her height. Her medical history reveals a closed reduction and internal fixation of a Kyle II periprosthetic fracture with a short intramedullary nail three years ago. The patient was completely asymptomatic before her fall. Standard radiographic images and a computed tomography confirmed a femoral neck fracture and impaction around the cephalic screw without breakage of the implant. The acetabular articular surface was intact during the operation and we performed therefore a partial right hip arthroplasty with a cemented stem.

Conclusion: To our knowledge there is no description in the literature of a femoral neck fracture around the cephalic screw of an intramedullary nail with no associated cut-out. Treatment options include a partial hip arthroplasty versus total hip arthroplasty depending on quality of life factors, daily activity demands of the patients and the integrity of acetabular cartilage.

Prospective clinical and radiostereometric (RSA) results of 24 Fitmore Hip Stems after 2 years follow-up
Raphael Jenni1, Yves Pascal Acklin1, Heinz Bereiter1, Karl Killian Stoffel2
1Kantonsspital Graubünden, 22Murdoch Orthopaedic Clinic, 43 S W I S S M E D W K L Y 2014;144(Suppl 204) · www.smw.ch

Results: Eighteen patients (15 women and 3 men) could be enrolled. There were 12 Vancouver type B1 fractures and 6 type C spiral fractures. All but one fracture was treated without complications. No fixation failure occurred. One patient had to be revised after 4 months due to a broken plate. No prosthesis loosening was found at 12 months follow up. The mean Harris Hip Score result was 77 (SD = 12) after 6 months and 89 (SD = 14) after 12 months. The score reached the mean preoperative level (87, SD = 14) after 12 month.

Conclusions: Good clinical and radiological results could be achieved with a low complication rate and good patient functional outcome.

Unusual complication after an intramedullary nailing of a per trochonteric fracture
Sophie Merckaert1, Stefan Hefer2, Alain Akkir1
1Hôpital du Chablais, Monthey, 2Hospital of Chablais, Monthey

Introduction: Pertrochanteric fractures represent almost half of fractures of the proximal femur. The standard treatment is usually a short intramedullary nail. The main complication is a secondary loss of reduction and cut-out of the cephalic screw. Other complications include femoral neck shortening, lateralisation of the cephalic hip screw or pseudarthrosis development.

Conclusions: Our case may represent a more appropriate clinical tool than DSCA and be of prognostic value. It should be evaluated in larger prospective studies.
Validation of a self-reported Beighton score to assess hypermobility in patients with femoroacetabular impingement
Gabriel Hatzung, Aileen Müller, Franco M. Impellizzeri, Michael Leung, Florian D. Naef
1, 2Schulthess Klinik Zürich

Background: Joint hypermobility (JH) seems to be associated with musculoskeletal pain and injury incidence in an active population. The prevalence of JH in patients with femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) and its association with outcomes is yet widely unknown.

Hypothesis/Purpose: To validate a self-reported version of the Beighton score for FAI patients, and to determine possible associations between JH and clinical and radiographic parameters.

Methods: The study included 55 consecutive patients (18 females, mean age 29 years) with a diagnosis of FAI. All patients completed a self-reported Beighton score before clinical assessment, and two clinicians blinded to the self-reported form filled the examiner-based version. Reliability of the self-reported version was assessed using kappa statistics. The prevalence of JH and associations between Beighton scores and clinical and radiographic parameters were determined.

Results: The patients scored a mean of 2.6 ± 2.8 points on the self-reported Beighton score. Agreement between self-assessment and examination was good to excellent for all single items and for the total score. Considering a Beighton score of ≥4 as cutoff for JH, the prevalence in the present cohort was 32.7% (50% of females and 24.3% of males). Significant associations were found between Beighton scores and hip flexion (r = 0.61) and internal rotation (r = 0.56). No significant correlations were found between Beighton scores and any of the radiographic parameters.

Conclusion: The patient-oriented Beighton score proved to be feasible and reliable in FAI patients. The prevalence of JH in these patients seems to be high and future investigations about the association of JH with FAI and treatment outcomes are therefore warranted.

Endovascular embolization as treatment for arterial complications after elective hip surgery
Daniel Sauter, Matthias Erschbamer, Jürgen Den Hollander, Lukas Heichelhammer, Fabrice Külling
1Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Orthopädie, 2Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Radiologie

Aim: Arterial complications during elective hip surgery are rare, and require secondary interventions. In this study we analyse endovascular embolization as treatment strategy and link the type of surgical approach to angiographic proven injured vessels. Further we found that endovascular embolization is a save and effective treatment for both acute and chronic postoperative arterial complications.

Methods: In a retrospective study we searched our digital patient database and patient records for elective hip surgery and vascular interventions.

Results: Between 2007 till 2013 for patients that underwent elective hip surgery. Out of 3891 elective hip interventions we were able to identify 16 patients that were endovascular embolization was performed postoperatively as treatment for an arterial complication. Ten patients underwent primary hip arthroplasty, four revision arthroplasty, one a hip arthroscopy and one intramedullary nailing. Bleeding were detected by marked swelling, and thereafter confirmed by low haemoglobin count. Seven patients had a known coagulopathy. Eleven out of 16 patients underwent embolization within the first 3 days, 5 patients underwent embolization up until 10 days after primary surgery. In all but one the bleeding could be successfully treated by embolization, one patient did not show any active bleeding. In eleven patients a active bleeding could be found, whereas in four a pseudoaneurysm could be seen. For all embolization coils and or Spongostan™ were used.

Conclusion: Acute and chronic arterial complications in elective hip surgery are rare, and can usually successfully be treated by endovascular management, avoiding the morbidity of open repair. Endovascular embolization is our standard treatment for arterial complications after hip surgery.

Typical and Atypical Atypical Femoral Fractures
Stipe Krajnovic, Sonja Cronenberg, Norbert Suhm
Universitätsklinikum Basel

Introduction: Beginning in 2005, reports link long-term use of bisphosphonates (BPs) with atypical fractures of the femur (AFF). The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) defined major and minor features of AFF and recommends that all major features be present to designate a femoral fracture as atypical. Does rigid application of these features hinder identification of all cases of atypical femoral fractures? We present two cases of femoral fractures with a past medical history and radiomorphologic features suggesting atypical character. However, because failure to meet all major features, these cases would not be accepted to be "atypical".

Case reports: A.A. (1930) suffered from 5 low energy fractures. Dexa scanning revealed osteopenia (DEXA: Femur T = -2.2, UWS T = -2.3) and antiresorptive therapy was initiated with alendronate. In 2008 the patient suffered from another low-energy periprosthetic femoral fracture. The fracture met all major ASBMR criteria. However, as periprosthetic fractures are excluded from AFF by definition, the fracture shown in fig. 1. would not be accepted to be an atypical one. B.B. (1976) missed to build peak bone mass because of anorexia. Dexa scanning was performed (DEXA: LWS T = -2.9) and antiresorptive therapy was initiated with ibandronate. In 2011 the patient suffered from a pertochoferarchic femoral fracture with subtrochanteric extension (fig. 2) when sitting down on a chair. Because of persisting lateral pressure, MRI scanning was performed. This revealed stress reactions in the other femur, too. Except for the pertochoferarchic fracture line and except for an oblique fracture line all major ASBMR features are met. Minor criteria are also met: relevant comorbidity (anorexia), pharmacotherapy (ibandronate) and bilaterality of the lesion.

Discussion: Major and minor features create a case definition of AFF in order to assure that subsequent studies report on the same condition. However, rigid application of criteria might hinder identification of all cases of AFF. An additional group of atypical femoral fractures would allow a future AFF register not to drop questionable cases.

Open Reduction and Internal Fixation (ORIF) of Greater Trochanter (GT) Fractures, Non-unions and Mal-unions using a Modular Claw Plate
Anita Hasler, Patrick Zirng, Carlo De Simon, Joseph Brandenberg, Claudia Dogal
1Uniklinik Balgrist, 2Klinik St. Anna

Introduction: ORIF of GT fractures, non-unions and mal-unions remain a challenge. Irrespective of the fixation devices used, non-union and implant failure rates are reported as high as 31% and 19%, respectively. Since November 2009, a claw plate with one modular claw (multi optional plate, MOP) was used by four different surgeons in two different institutions. The aim of the present study was to retrospectively review these patients in terms of secondary dislocation, union rates and local complications.

Methods: Retrospective review of a consecutive single series of patients using MOP from November 2009 to April 2013. Latest follow-up x-rays were used to evaluate secondary fracture displacement, device fracture and bony union. Latest follow-up records were used to evaluate clinical outcome. Patients charts were reviewed in order to record complications, re-operations and patient demographics.

Results: Thirty MOP were used during this time period in two institutions treating 30 patients (age: 68y, range 32-92, women:22, left: 19). In two patients, GT fracture was diagnosed during implantation of primary THA, while diagnosis was delayed in 7 patients. Two patients were revised for implant failure after primary GT fixation, 9 for non-union. 4 patients were treated by periprosthetic fracture. Prophylactic MOP fixation was used in 4 patients during revision arthroplasty. One patient died unrelated to surgery before follow-up visit. After a mean follow-up of 9 months (range 3–28 months), union occurred in 25 of 29 cases, secondary dislocation in 4. Failure mechanism was loosening of the distal screw fixation in these cases. Hardware removal due to trochanteric pain was performed in 8 patients. At the latest follow-up, 16 patients had no pain and no limitations when walking. Six patients claimed trochanteric pain due to plate prominence and were scheduled for implant removal, 7 patients claimed residual pain or limping due to MOP.

Conclusion: MOP displayed failure rates of 14%. Due the observed failure mode, MOP has been lengthened distally for better distribution of mechanical forces along the distal implant.
Osteolysis around Birmingham Modular Metal-on-Metal Total Hip Arthroplasty: Is CT the best screening test?

Wenzel Waldstein, Tom Schmidt-Braekling, Friedrich Boettner
1 Spital Oberengadin, Samedan, 2 Hospital for Special Surgery

Introduction: Periacetabular osteolysis has been described as a failure mode in modular metal-on-metal (MoM) total hip arthroplasty (THA). The clinical value of metal artifact reduction sequence (MARS) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to assess the periprosthetic soft tissue is well documented; however, the appropriate image modalities to detect periacetabular osteolysis remain unclear. The purpose of the present case series was (1) to report on the accuracy of plain radiographs, CTs and MRIs in 10 patients with periacetabular osteolysis around modular MoM THA and (2) to report on periacetabular osteolysis as a possible failure mechanism of the Birmingham MoM total hip arthroplasty (Smith & Nephew, Memphis, TN, USA).

Methods: Ten patients with uncemented modular MoM THA (Birmingham Hip Acetabular Cup, Birmingham Hip Modular Head and Synergy Stem; Smith & Nephew, Memphis, TN, USA) are presented. All 10 patients received corresponding standardized AP pelvis radiographs, high quality MARS MRIs and CT scans with a metal artifact reduction sequence.

Results: While periacetabular osteolysis around MoM THA was not detected on MARS MRI, CT imaging identified osteolysis in all patients. Periacetabular osteolysis appears to be a failure mechanism of the Smith & Nephew Birmingham MoM THA.

Conclusion: MRI is not a sensitive test to identify periacetabular osteolysis. We recommend CT as a screening tool with this failure mode. Our study suggests that patients with a standard BHR metal-on-metal THA are at increased risk to develop acetabular osteolysis and should be carefully monitored for this failure mode.

Iliopsoas Muscle Necrosis Caused by Iliopelvic Extension of an Ilipectineal Bursitis Complicating Femoral Head Necrosis: Case Report and Literature Review

Chris Kurze, Marius Keel, Klaus Siebenrock, Marc Altinger
Inselspital Bern

Iliopsoas bursitis has been reported to occur in various hip diseases such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and osteonecrosis. In severe cases, the iliopsoas mass might produce symptoms due to direct compression of the adjacent anatomical structures. We describe a case with a massive iliopsoas bursitis with iliopelvic retroperitoneal extension and necrosis of the iliopsoas muscle complicating an osteonecrosis of the femoral head.

We report a case of a 78-year old male with an inguinal swelling and a weak and painful hip flexion. Conventional radiography showed severe degenerative changes of the left hip. The MRI revealed a large fluid collection that was referred to as an iliopelvic bursitis. The fluid mass extended into the retroperitoneum and formed a collection in the iliac fossa. The presence of a destructive femoral head necrosis was also confirmed in the MRI-studies. Through a Smith-Peterson approach the hip joint was accessed. There was a connection between the joint capsule and the iliopsoas bursa so that a valve-like mechanism was postulated to explain the large extent of the cyst. The exploration of the iliopsoas tendon revealed a partly necrotic tendon and an extensively necrotic and hemorrhagic muscle which was extensively debrided. After an infection was ruled out a Girdlestone resection arthroplasty was performed as the patient did not qualify for a total hip prosthesis. At 2 months follow-up, the patient clinically improved without recurrence of the swelling or groin pain and improved hip flexion force.

Iliopsoas bursitis is a rare pathology that may complicate osteoarthritis, osteonecrosis or rheumatoid arthritis of the hip. Patients might present with an inguinal mass and groin pain, however, in severe cases hip flexion force can be reduced due to femoral nerve palsy or even iliopsoas muscle necrosis caused by extensive compression by the iliopelvic fluid mass. The treatment comprises the evacuation of the mass and debridement of the necrotic tissue on the one hand, and the treatment of the underlying cause on the other hand. This means the resection of a degenerative femoral head with either implementation of a Girdlestone situation or a total joint replacement. In conclusion, awareness of this pathology with its unique symptoms and radiographic findings is important in order to reveal the correct diagnose and initiate the adequate treatment.

Fracture of two tapered modular non-cemented revision stems: case report, technical note for extraction and metallurgical analysis of cause

Theo Solinger, Peter Wahl, Emanuel Gautier
HFR Fribourg – Hospital Cantonal

Introduction: Fracture of the femoral component after primary total hip arthroplasty (THA) is well known and counts for approximately 1% of revision surgery. Fracture of the femoral component after revision THA is rarely reported but appears to be the cause for 2–3% of subsequent revisions. The failure modes of stem fractures of both primary and revision THA mostly described to date are fatigue fractures caused by cyclic loading. Recent case reports have illustrated fractures of modular femoral stems in primary THA in the head-neck region after major mechanical impact (as fall or jump), which where corrosion induced.

Removal of a broken stem can become challenging as no standard extraction device can be fitted. Various solutions to solve problems of extraction are described, but all require extension of the surgical approach, result in extensive bone loss or need off-label use of devices.

Methods: We present 2 cases of a broken modular tapered, fluted, non-cemented titanium alloy revision stem (Revitan®, Zimmer).

Results: In both cases, an extraction with the standard instruments was no longer possible. Our technical solution of removal via a standard transfemoral approach is simple, reproducible, and does not require extensive measures or special devices other than a carbide drill. After extraction both stems showed the same unexpected location of fracture so that a metallurgical analysis was initiated. The reason for breakage was in both cases crevice corrosion.

Conclusion: To our knowledge there have been no previous reports showing crevice corrosion as a reason for spontaneous fracture of a revision stem. The technique used for extraction is relatively simple. We recommend it should be available to whoever is confronted with revision of broken femoral THA stems.
Are Additional Anteroposterior Hip Radiographs Required for Precise Templating in Total Hip Arthroplasty?
Kim Kuonen, Frank Klenke, Klaus Siebenrock, Marc Attinger
Inselspital Bern

Introduction: Accurate restoration of the physiological biomechanics in total hip arthroplasty improves abductor strength and range of motion. Traditionally, preoperative templating has been performed on anteroposterior (AP) radiographs of the pelvis. More recently, AP radiographs of the hip have been recommended for an accurate restoration of the femoral offset. However, additional x-ray imaging increases the radiation exposure of the patient as AP pelvis templating is still required to restore the leg length and the center of rotation. We therefore analyzed the femoral offset obtained by AP radiographs of the pelvis and the AP radiographs of the hip. Additionally, we created a geometrical model to calculate the theoretical difference of the femoral offset obtained with AP radiographs of the pelvis as compared to AP radiographs of the hip.

Methods: In 48 patients, both anteroposterior pelvis and anteroposterior hip radiographs were obtained as pre-operative radiographs for templating of unilateral total hip arthroplasty. Patients position and x-ray beam setting followed a standardised protocol to achieve reproducible projections. All images were calibrated with the KingMark® calibration system and the offset measurements were performed with the validated TraumaCAD software program (Voyant Health, UK). A geometrical model was created to calculate the theoretical difference of the femoral offset between the AP pelvic and AP hip projection.

Results: The mean femoral offset measured on AP pelvis radiographs was 36.8 ± 5.1 mm and 37.9 ± 6.9 mm on AP hip radiographs (mean difference 1.2 ± 1.6 mm). According to our formula, the theoretical projection-derived underestimation of the femoral offset on AP pelvis radiographs as compared to AP hip images and hip was 1.5%.

Discussion: The x-ray measurements and the calculation of the geometrical model demonstrated that the difference of the femoral offset obtained with AP radiographs of the pelvis and the hip is negligible. Additional AP hip radiographs add to the patients’ radiation exposure without improving the precision of pre-operative templating of total hip arthroplasty. Consequently, AP hip radiographs do not seem to be required for routine total hip replacement templating.

Tissue engineered nasal cartilage for the regeneration of post traumatic cartilage injuries in the knee – early results of a Phase 1 Clinical Trial
Marcus Mummel, Andrea Barbero, Sylvie Miot, Martin Hauß, Sandra Feliciano, Matthias Steinwachs, Ulrich Studier, Markus Arnold, Thomas Schwamborn, Ivan Martin, Marcel Jakob
Universitätsspital Basel, Schlichthess Krankenhaus Zürich, Kantonskrankenbruderholz

Introduction: Articular cartilage has a very limited intrinsic repair capacity leading to progressive joint damage. The implantation of autologous articular chondrocytes does not reproducibly support durable regeneration in the long-term. As an alternative, a three-dimensional in vitro engineered tissue graft, engineered to possess functional properties could result in a more durable repair in the long-term. To reduce the variability in the quality of the engineered tissue graft, a cell source with more reproducible function such as nasal chondrocytes could be used. The purpose of this phase-1 study is to demonstrate safety and feasibility of the procedure.

Material and methods: Five patients below 55 years with symptomatic post-traumatic full-thickness cartilage lesion (2–8 cm²) on the femoral condyle and/or trochlea have been up to now treated. The patients underwent a nasale septum cartilage biopsy in an outpatient procedure. Nasal chondrocytes were isolated, expanded and then seeded on a collagen sponge in the context of a quality management system and Good Manufacturing Practice facility. After 4 weeks the tissue engineered cartilage was implanted into the defect and secured sutures and fibrin adhesive. Patients were followed up clinically according to the ICRS evaluation package and radiologically with MRI.

Results: No complication occurred during nasal cartilage biopsy. The engineered cartilaginous tissues were always correctly fixed in the defect. All followed the established rehabilitation program. Three patients reached 6 months follow up so far. At this time, MRI revealed the presence of the nasal cartilage graft in situ without subchondral bone edema. The repair tissue demonstrated in some areas full thickness repair and in certain areas its level was still below the one of the surrounding native cartilage.

Conclusion: The early results show that engineered constructs based on autologous nasal chondrocytes can integrate with the surrounding tissue and participate to the repair of the defects. These data so far indicate safety and feasibility of the procedure, but two year follow up of all included patients is necessary for confirmation of the early observations. This study opens a new approach in biological cartilage regeneration with engineered tissue and nasal chondrocytes as autologous cell source.

Acknowledgments: Deutsche Arthrose-Hilfe for financial support.

Treating patella instability in skeletally immature patients
Patrick Vavken, Matthias Wimmer, Carlo Camathias, Julia Quiddler, Victor Valderrabano, Geert Pagenersten
UniSpital Basel, Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsklinikum Basel

Introduction: This systematic review aims at comprehensively and systematically reviewing the current evidence for orthopedic treatment of immature and adolescent patients with acute and chronic patella instability.

Methods: We searched the online databases PubMed, CINAHL, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) for relevant publications on patella instability. All dates and languages were included.

Results: 20 papers reporting on a total of 456 knees in 425 patients (131 male, 294 female) patients followed for 56.7 ± 42.2 months on average, were included into the analysis. Two studies focused specifically on conservative and surgical treatment in acute dislocations and reported no difference in outcomes after 7 and 14 years, even in the face of slight trochlea dysplasia. For recurrent instability, we found consistent, beneficial effects of surgical stabilization on clinical scores, postoperative stability and radiographic assessment. There is no evidence for growth disturbance with surgical patella stabilization in immature patients.

Conclusion: The current best evidence does not support the superiority of surgical intervention over conservative treatment in an acute patella dislocation. However, anatomic variations and their effect on healing should be considered and included in decision-making. In recurrent patella instability in pediatric and adolescent patients with normal or restored knee anatomy, reconstruction of the MPFL is an effective treatment option but should be carefully weighed against trochleoplasty.

Evidence-based treatment of septic arthritis after ACL reconstruction
Patrick Vavken, Fabian Blank, Victor Valderrabano, Geert Pagenersten
UniSpital Basel, Orthopädische Universitätsklinik, Universitätsklinikum Basel

Introduction: This systematic review aims at comprehensively and systematically reviewing the current evidence for the treatment of septic arthritis after ACL reconstruction.

Methods: We searched the online databases PubMed, CINAHL, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) for relevant publications on septic arthritis after ACL reconstruction. All dates and languages were included.

Results: 190 papers reporting on the diagnosis and treatment of septic arthritic tissue after ACL were reviewed for inclusion. The most critical diagnostic criterion for a joint infection was a cell count >50,000 on an initial aspirate. 60% of all cases were missed at the initial presentation. The cell source with the highest risk for a septic complication was seen in patients with a soft tissue graft and cannulated fixation. Previous knee surgery increases the risk of infection between 2 and 5-fold. Dropping the graft on the floor does not increase infection rates substantially, if the graft is properly cleaned. Graft retention is a viable solution if an infection is diagnosed early (<2 weeks), although there are no differences in clinical scores and function after 2 years when compared with those treated with graft removal and two stage reconstruction.

Conclusion: Septic arthritis is an infrequent yet much dreaded complication of ACL reconstruction. Unfortunately, detection is difficult, and only 40% are accurately diagnosed right away. In those diagnosed early on, retention is a viable option. Late detection, or additional risk factors such as cannulated fixation, extraarticular fixation or soft tissue grafts, graft removal and two stage reconstruction should be considered.
Conclusions: The Duracon TKA showed excellent long-term survival (17%), mainly around the tibial component (95%).

Regina Wegener1, Florent Baty2, Verena Fenner3, Henrik Behrend4, 

Performed. Radiological long-term (>10 years) follow-up analysis or axis over time. Progressive radiolucencies were found in 9 TKA revision due to aseptic loosening and mechanical failure was performed according to the Knee Society Radiographic Evaluation system. Between 1992 and 1999 159 Duracon TKA were implanted at our institution. A Kaplan-Meier survival analysis for the endpoints three consecutive steps using an instrumented staircase. Mean age at surgery was 74.3 years, 28% were male, 89% had primary osteoarthritis as diagnosis. Mean FU for survival analysis was 10.9 years (SD 4.2). 58% of the patients died during follow-up.

Results: 

Mean age at surgery was 74.3 years, 28% were male, 89% had primary osteoarthritis as diagnosis. Mean FU for survival analysis was 10.9 years (SD 4.2). 58% of the patients died during follow-up. 5 TKA (3.1%) were revised. 3 patients (2.1%) were lost to follow-up. 58% of the patients died during follow-up. 8 patients (5.1%) were lost to follow-up. The mechanical demand placed on total knee prostheses during arthroplasty (TKA). While it is known that different stair dimensions affect biomechanical parameters, to date these effects are unknown. The hypothesis is not verified. The study shows satisfactory clinical results but radiological results should lead to caution with regard to secondary displacements observed in the plate group. The hypothesis is not verified. Our clinical results are satisfactory but the radiological results should lead to caution with regard to secondary displacements observed in the plate group. The hypothesis is not verified.
What is the evidence for trochleoplasty in the treatment of patellofemoral instability? A systematic review and comparison with MPFL reconstruction outcomes
Enrique Adrian Testa1, Carlo Camathias2, Felix Amsler3, Philipp Henler1, Niklaus Friederich4, Michael Tobias Hirschmann1

Methods: Two independent orthopaedic surgeons performed a standardized search on PubMed and other literature search engines and reviewed the obtained abstracts. All observational and experimental studies were then obtained in full text and again reviewed in a consensus setting. Articles were included and analysed using the CASP appraisal scoring system to assess its methodological quality. As a comparison group the same process was done for MPFL reconstruction. 25 studies on MPFL reconstruction were obtained for comparison. The clinical and radiological outcomes of all papers were reviewed and compared. The studies investigated a variety of different outcome scoring instruments. Seven outcome variables were found to be consistently used in the study. These were the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), Lysholm score, Patellar Instability Rating Score (PIRS), 13 tibial zones to accurately map the examined tracer uptake volume were calculated along with the inter- and intra-OR.

Results: The localisation scheme showed near perfect inter- and intra-OR (ICC > 0.9) for the measurement of tracer activity and component measurements were determined by calculating the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC).

Conclusions: The SPECT/CT tracer uptake has been shown to reflect the loading history of the tibiofemoral knee joint and correlate with the mechanical and anatomical alignment. It was our primary purpose to develop a novel standardised SPECT/CT algorithm for patients undergoing high tibial osteotomy, evaluate the inter- and intra-observer reliability and assess the clinical applicability for follow-up of patients before and after high tibial osteotomy.

Do not forget the proximal tibio-fibular joint – a rare cause of unexplained pain after high tibial osteotomy!
Enrique Adrian Testa1, David Luca Haen1, Gerrit Behrens1, Michael Tobias Hirschmann2

Problems of the proximal tibio-fibular joint (pTFj) as complications after high tibial osteotomy are rare. With this case report we strive to highlight the importance of investigating the pTFj in patients with unexplained knee pain after high tibial osteotomy (HTO). A 44 years old male patient presented to our knee clinic with referred diffuse pain of his left knee three years after medial opening-wedge HTO due to medial compartment overload in a varus deformed knee. The patient described persistent anterior knee pain. Two years after HTO the patient underwent implant removal, he still experienced ongoing knee pain and increasing loss of extension. Considering all limitations this systematic review showed...
Dynamic intraligamentary stabilization (DIS, Ligamys®) in ACL rupture. Preliminary results in stability and strength in 27 patients 9 months after surgery

Marcel Gloyer, Stefan Preiss, Laurent Harder, Danica Mauz, Thomas Guggi
Schulthess Klinik Zürich

Introduction: Arthroscopically assisted ACL reconstruction is an accepted standard procedure in treating acute ACL tears. Yet, numerous newer studies support the hypothesis of biological self-healing potential of a ruptured ACL. Recently, a new operation method described as dynamic intraligamentary stabilization (DIS) was introduced. The DIS device combines an internal dynamic screw-spring mechanism with a 1.8-mm braided polyethylene anchoring wire providing continuous stability for the ACL and knee during the self-healing period. Apart from preserving natural structures, this procedure allows for fast track rehabilitation with near to immediate postoperative onset.

Methods: We present preliminary biomechanical results of 27 patients with a minimum follow-up of 9 months (272 days). Operations were performed by two experienced knee surgeons. All patients underwent a complex knee testing at a mean of 6 months (187 days) after surgery. Tested features were overall stability, Lachman-strain of extensor and flexor muscles, flexor to extensor ratio was calculated.

Results: The deficit in overall stability was 3.8% for the injured side. Lachman testing did not show any increased translation in 21 patients and slightly more translation in 5 patients, all of which presented a solid mechanical endpoint.

Isokinetic testing of extensor muscles showed 28.7% less strength in comparison to the healthy, contralateral knee. The difference in muscle strength with regard to the flexors was 6.7%. The calculated relation of flexors to extendors was 79.1% (normal 61–75%). In 4 patients the tensing device was removed and the remaining tibial defect filled with autologous bone chips. To date, no additional surgery with regard to the ACL has been required.

Conclusion: DIS is a safe and minimally invasive procedure, which supports the self-healing process in ACL ruptures. It shows promising short-term results in knee stability and flexor/extensor strength and provides adequate and early anterior – posterior stability, which is an important supportive factor in rapid rehabilitation and beneficial for a soft healing response. It leads to a stable knee joint and maintains proprioception. Short- and mid-term results remain to be collected and analysed and will be reported accordingly.

Smart Implant Loosening Detection: a vibration analysis approach

Jean-Romain Delaloye1, Arash Arami2, Hossein Rouhani2, Kamiar Aminian2, Brigitte Haeberli-Jolles1
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois et Université de Lausanne, 2Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Introduction: Total knee arthroplasty loosening results from the weakness of prosthesis-bone interface and is actually the main reason of the ROM. The intra- and postoperative course went without any noticeable problems. 2 weeks after demission the patient underwent a dental procedure. The symptoms started to progress in the fourth postoperative week. The subsequent physical examination and laboratory studies showed modest clinical symptoms and mild increase of laboratory infection markers. Due to these findings, the patient was treated as septic arthritis, although first microbiological investigations did not provide any causing pathogen in the first days and the first arthroscopic debridement did not show clear signs for an infection. The antibiotics, which the patient did not show any success. After the delayed identification of A. defectiva, Gentamicin was added to the intravenous therapy, which showed good effects on the clinical symptoms and blood tests of markers. With demission the medication was changed to oral Vancomycin and Rifampicin. The laboratory markers showed further decrease, but the flexion was still limited 3 months after ACL-reconstruction.

Discussion: The case shows the challenging diagnosis and therapy of an infection with A. defectiva, caused by its difficult cultivation and therapy. Causing only mild symptoms and being hardly identified, this bacteria is suggested to be responsible for more cases than reported. As to the cause of the infection, most of the known cases describe a temporal relation of a dental procedure and the infection. Since bacteraemia after dental procedures is frequently described, this is one possible source of infection for this case. The therapy in this case has shown good progress so far, but is still not terminated as the patient still suffers under limited mobility.

Septic arthritis with Abiotrophia defectiva after ACL-reconstruction

Philipp Balcerak, Andrea Vetterli
Kantonsspital Obwalden

Introduction: This is the first published case of septic arthritis with Abiotrophia defectiva after an ACL-reconstruction. A. defectiva is a member of the nutritionally variant Streptococci and part of the normal human flora. Rarely reported as a causative agent, it has been reported to cause different infections, most of them being endocarditis and only few septic arthritus. Due to intractable problems in diagnosis and therapy and also poor prognosis, more attention should be drawn to its clinical relevance.

Case Report: A 41-year old woman presented in the regular postoperative control 6 weeks after arthroscopic-assisted ACL-reconstruction with Hamstring graft with progressive pain and swelling in the operated left knee accompanied by a progressive reduction of the ROM. The intra- and postoperative course went without any noticeable problems. 2 weeks after demission the patient underwent a dental procedure. The symptoms started to progress in the fourth postoperative week. The subsequent physical examination and laboratory studies showed modest clinical symptoms and mild increase of laboratory infection markers. Due to these findings, the patient was treated as septic arthritis, although first microbiological investigations did not provide any causing pathogen in the first days and the first arthroscopic debridement did not show clear signs for an infection. The antibiotics, which the patient did not show any success. After the delayed identification of A. defectiva, Gentamicin was added to the intravenous therapy, which showed good effects on the clinical symptoms and blood tests of markers. With demission the medication was changed to oral Vancomycin and Rifampicin. The laboratory markers showed further decrease, but the flexion was still limited 3 months after ACL-reconstruction.

Discussion: The case shows the challenging diagnosis and therapy of an infection with A. defectiva, caused by its difficult cultivation and therapy. Causing only mild symptoms and being hardly identified, this bacteria is suggested to be responsible for more cases than reported. As to the cause of the infection, most of the known cases describe a temporal relation of a dental procedure and the infection. Since bacteraemia after dental procedures is frequently described, this is one possible source of infection for this case. The therapy in this case has shown good progress so far, but is still not terminated as the patient still suffers under limited mobility.
The Salvage of Massive Talar Bone Stock Loss with a Custom Designed Talar Component in Revisinal Total Ankle Replacement

Joe Wagener, Christine Schweizer, Markus Knupp, Beat Hintermann
Kantonsspital Baselland

Introduction: A failed total ankle replacement is often associated with a significant bone loss, particularly after subsidence of the talar component. As an alternative to a fusion with the use of an allograft, the surgeon may also consider a custom made talar component that is placed on calcaneal bone to compensate for the loss of bone. While only a few cases were reported in the literature mainly with regard to the feasibility, nothing is known about mid- to long-term behaviour of such bulky implants. The purpose of this study was to assess the functional and radiological outcome after the use of a custom made talar component in a consecutive series of 13 patients at mid- to long-term.

Methods: 13 patients (males, 5; females, 8; mean age of 54 [36–77] years) were treated with a custom made component for a large talar defect after failed total ankle replacement (n = 12 [STAR, Hintegra; 4, MOBILITY.I]) or after avascular necrosis of the talar body (n = 1). The custom made component was calculated on base of standard X-rays (as compared with the contralateral side) and CT scan. After a stable situation of talar head to calcaneus was achieved by screw fixation to get the anterior tibiotalar joint fused, the component was inserted using a retrograde procedure to the calcaneal bone. For the side, a standard component was used. The usual clinical parameters and standard X-rays were used for follow-up controls.

Results: A major complication in one patient after a superficial wound healing problem which progressed and resulted in a deep infection. It was finally treated by a fusion. At a follow-up of 5.3 (1–11) years, all 12 other ankles were stable and showed no radiologic signs of loosening. The mean range of motion at last follow-up was 23° (15°–42°). 10 patients (83%) were satisfied/highly satisfied with the obtained result, and 2 patients (17%) were satisfied with reservation.

Conclusion: The use of a custom made talar component to compensate for a major loss of bone stock yielded satisfactory results with regard to functional result and stability at mid- to long-term. Despite the increased size of implants, load transfer and created shear forces between bone implant interface remained obviously within physiological norm. Obtained mid- to long-term results and the high level of patient satisfaction encourage continuing revisional TAR with custom designed talar components as an alternative to ankle arthrodesis.

Subjective vs. Objective Assessment in Early Clinical Outcome of Modified Lapidus Procedure for Moderate to Severe Hallux Valgus Deformity

Swati Chopra, Kevin Moerenhout, Xavier Crevoisier
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois and University of Lausanne (CHUV)

Introduction: Most studies assessing the outcome of hallux valgus (HV) surgeries based on subjective questionnaires (AOFAS-Score) report a score of >80% at 6 month post operatively. Our study aims to assess modified Lapidus surgery 6 months postoperatively with objective gait assessment (GA) methods to determine if biomechanical improvement effectively correlates with this excellent AOFAS score and the radiological results.

Method: 10 feet from 10 healthy volunteers and 10 HV feet from 9 patients listed for modified Lapidus correction were included. These HV patients were followed at 6 months postoperatively. Our study aims to assess modified Lapidus surgery 6 months postoperatively with objective gait assessment (GA) methods to determine if biomechanical improvement effectively correlates with this excellent AOFAS score and the radiological results.

Method: 10 feet from 10 healthy volunteers and 10 HV feet from 9 patients listed for modified Lapidus correction were included: These HV patients were followed at 6 months postoperatively. GA was performed using pressure insoles (Pedar-X, novel, DE) and 3D inertial sensors (Physilog, BioAGM, CH). Spatiotemporal (STP), kinematic and plantar pressure parameters (PPP) were assessed. Clinical assessment includes AOFAS, FAAM, and radiographic results.

Results: Compared to controls, HV group showed gait deviation in STP, kinematic and PPP as seen in previous gait studies. Postop vs Preop: STP results showed no improvement in most parameters compared to preop with the reportedly longer foot-flat and shorter push-off in the stance phase and reduced toe-off pitch angle (p < 0.05).

Conclusion: Our study supports earlier GA as a more accurate clinical presentation of the condition at follow up. FAAM should be preferred over AOFAS for follow up of HV surgeries. Study reports a longer recovery period after modified Lapidus and aims to follow these patients for a long term outcome.

Non-operative treatment of acute ruptures of the achilles tendon

Anne Kathrin Bremer1, Timo M. Ecker2, Fabian Götz Krause2, Thorsten Müller3, Martin Weber2
1Orthopädie, Inselspital, Bern, 2Physiotherapie, Inselspital, Bern, 3Zieglerspital, Bern

Treatment of acute traumatic rupture of the Achilles tendon can be operative or non-operative. The main difference is the nature of the early complications – more re-ruptures versus wound infection and nerve lesions – while the ultimate function and patient satisfaction are equivalent. We present the results of a standard non-operative treatment protocol prospectively evaluated over 16 years. 171 patients were enrolled. An equinus ankle cast (6 weeks) and a boot (12 weeks) were used, with immediate full weightbearing and calf muscle training. Follow up visits were scheduled at 2, 4 and 6 weeks, then at 3, 6 and 12 months. At the latest visit patients were interviewed regarding subjective parameters such as pain, meticosenstivity, loss of strength, return to previous activity level and general satisfaction with the treatment outcome. Clinical assessment included planar flexion strength and endurance, as well as circumference and tendon length. Subjective and clinical parameters were then used to calculate a modified Thermann score.

Of the 171 patients, 8 were operated within two weeks after trauma because of inadequate early tendon healing. Of the remaining 163 patients, 5 were lost before the 3 months follow up and 8 had re-ruptures until then. At one year another 27 patients were lost to follow-up. 131 patients at 12 months follow-up, 17 not participating in functional testing. Additionally 3 re-ruptures occurred: in total 11 re-ruptures (mean 9 ± SD 4, range 5–18 weeks after trauma) eight with an adequate trauma and three without. Re-rupture rate at 3 months was 5.1%, at 1 year 6.4%. 114 patients reached a minimum follow-up of 12 months (mean 27 ± SD 20, range 12–88). The mean Thermann score was 84.5 ± 12.6 (41–100) points and subjective satisfaction was rated "very good" and "good" in 89.5%. General complications were deep venous thrombosis (5) and CRPS I (1), minor problems were transient heel pain (3), skin abrasion in the cast (4), transient numbness (1).

In conclusion the re-rupture rate is higher in non-operative treatment while the total complication rate is lower. Ultimate function and patient satisfaction are equivalent to operative treatment. There was a positive inverse correlation between tendon length and muscle strength. Our protocol of non-operative treatment with immediate weightbearing is a valuable and safe option for acute ruptures of the achilles tendon.
Conclusion: The excentered position tend to shift the strains but not to decrease them. We concluded that, even if slight differences are observed between fixed and mobile bearing inserts, it is not enough to put forward the superiority of one of these implants regarding their reaction to axial compression. The present study can be used for further applications like improving implant designs and fixation.

Outcome of displaced distal tibial metaphyseal fractures in children between six and fifteen years of age treated by elastic stable intramedullary nails

Vincenzo De Rosa1, Federico Canaveses2, Antonio Andreachio1, Mattia Cravino1, Lorentza Marengro1, Mario Mendoza1, 1Ospedale Regionale di Bellinzona et Valli, 2Pediatric Orthopedic Department, University Hospital Estagia, Clermont-Ferrand, France, 3Pediatric Orthopedic Department, Regina Margherita Children’s Hospital, Torino, Italy, 4San Giovanni Hospital, Pediatric Surgery department, Bellinzona, Switzerland

Introduction: Displaced closed fracture of the distal metaphysis of the tibia in children treated with elastic stable intramedullary nails. Methods: From June 1995 to August 2012, 18 children were treated surgically using elastic stable intramedullary nails for displaced closed fractures of the distal metaphysis of the tibia. The patients were followed radiographically and clinically on a regular basis until union was clinically and radiographically achieved. Results: Ten boys and five girls, with a mean age at trauma of 11 ± 2.9 years (range: 6 to 15) were included in the study. Radiographically, all fractures healed without evidence of delayed union, re-fracture, hardware migration. All patients were pain free at last follow up and all regained full, normal activities including sports. Conclusions: We proposed a treatment with stable intramedullary nails for those fractures that is not common but in our experience it’s a good option with excellent clinical results.

Panton-Valentine Leucocidin in Staphylococcus aureus muskeloskeletal infections in children: report of three cases and review of the literature

Aline Bregou Bourgeois, Stéphane Tercier, Nicolas Lutz, Pierre-Yves Zambelli CHUV

Introduction: Staphylococcus Aureus (SA) strains producing Panton Valentine (PVL) Leucocidin are associated with particularly severe clinical features, including necrotizing pneumoniae, soft tissues and osteoarticular infections. During the last decade, there has been a worldwide increase of PVL positive (+) SA osteomyelitis. Method: We present the cases of three consecutive pediatric patients treated in our institution for PVL + SA osteomyelitis between 2010 and 2013. Demographics, clinical features, laboratory values, radiographic findings and treatments are reported. Results: 3 male patients sustained PVL + SA osteoarticular infection. Mean age was 12.3 years (10–15), and mean follow up 1.5 years (0.5–3). Two patients had furuncle history; one was 6 weeks post pre-B leukemia treatment. Symptoms duration at presentation were 5.6 days (4–6). Affected joint included knee and shoulder in one patient. All had osteomyelitis with superinfected abscess and articular involvement. All patients had severe inflammatory status at presentation with severe local pain, temperature superior to 40°C, and CRP above 100 mg/L. White blood cell count was normal in two cases and 17 G/L in one case. Standard initial x-rays were normal, MRI showed large osseous involvement with superinfected abscess in all cases. Pejoration of clinical status despite sensitive antibiotic therapy with CRP superior of 250 mg/L, a mean of 2.6 (1–4) repeated surgical drainages and osteotomies were necessary. When we had a high index of suspicion or a confirmed PVL + SA infection, clindamycin was associated to the initial beta-lactamase and/or glycopeptid antibiotic treatment. We had no secondary visceral involvement. Mean hospitalization stay was 40 days (14–56). Late complications are one distal femoral hemi-epiphysiosis, one pathological humeral fracture and one chronic osteomyelitis necessitating a surgical procedure. Conclusion: Potentially lethal osteoarticular infections caused by PVL + SA strains are associated with rapid severe local and greater systemic inflammatory response necessitating prompt treatment, including long duration parenteral antibiotic therapy associated with several surgical procedures. Antibiotics should associate a bacterial protein syntheses inhibitor with betalactamines and/or glycopeptids. Severe pain, high inflammatory response, normal or low white blood cell should prompt the suspicion and treatment of PVL + SA osteoarticular infections.

Cartilage matrix infection in children younger than 4 years old by Kingella kingae

Georgios Kampouroglou1, Victor Dubois-Ferriere1, Rebecca Anderson de la Llana1, Davide Salvo2, Dimitri Ceroni3, 1Pediatric Orthopedic Service, University Hospitals of Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 14, Switzerland, 2Pediatric Orthopedic Service, University Hospitals of Geneva

Introduction: Kingella kingae is nowadays considered as the leading bacterial cause of osteoarticular infection (OAI) in children aged less than 4 years. OAI due to K. kingae may present as arthritis, osteomyelitis, osteoarthritis, spondylodiscitis, or even as dacrytitis. We report here a new form of osteoarticular lesion due to K. kingae where the infection affects the non-ossified bony structures, causing thus real chondritis. Methods: Medical charts of 3 children presenting with cartilage matrix infections were analysed. Results: 3 children were brought to the emergency department complaining of limping or refusal of weight bearing. At the admission, all children were afebrile. Conventional X-Rays showed no bony structure involvement, whereas MRI revealed the OAI: for the first child an abscess of the first cuneiform bone, for the second child an abscess of the right non-ossified greater trochanter and for the third child an erosion into the distal non-ossified fibular epiphysis. The diagnosis of K. kingae OAI was established since PCR assays specific for this microorganism were positive in cartilage’s abscess aspiration samples. All children had an uneventful recovery after antibiotic treatment. Conclusions: infections due to K. kingae may affect non-ossified bony structures, and cause chondritis which is difficult to diagnose. Pediatrians must keep in mind this unusual but specific manifestation of OAI due to K. kingae, and this especially when dealing with very young children.

Outcome of two-stage exchange with short (<6 weeks) vs. long (>6 weeks) prosthetic-free interval

Samir Meriem1, Rayan Baalbaki2, Andrej Trampuz3, Olivier Borens2, 1CHUV, 2Charité universitätmedizin Berlin

Background: Prosthetic joint infection (PJI) leads to high morbidity and long term treatment. We evaluated the outcome of two-stage exchange with short (<6 weeks) and long (>6 weeks) interval. Methods: All the patients hospitalized in CHUV for a PJI were included during the period between 1999 to 2012. PJI was defined as growth of the same microorganism in ≥2 tissue or synovial fluid cultures, visible purulence, sinus tract or acute inflammation on tissue histopathology. Outcome analysis was performed at outpatient visits, followed by contacting patients, their relatives and/or treating physicians afterwards. Results: 123 patients (88 THA and 35 TKA) with infected PJI treated by two-stage exchange were identified. The median age was 65 years (range: 19–102y); 44.7% were women. The median hospital’s stay was 72.7 days (range: 11–361). The patients were followed for a mean of 14.7 months (range: 0.7–201). 5 patients were excluded of this study. The main reason of joint replacement was osteoarthritis (n = 98), followed by trauma (12), rheumatoid arthritis (6), hip dysplasia (3), aspeptic necrosis (2), and others (one tuberculosis and one tumor). 8 infections were diagnosed as early (<3 months), 30 as delayed (4–24 months) and 85 as late (>24 months). 118 patients were included in the study, 54 with short intervals (<6 weeks/less 50 days) and 64 with long intervals (>6 weeks/ more 50 days). In the short interval group, three patients had one or more operation to eradicate persistent infection and one had to be reoperated due spacer’s dislocation. In the long one, 7 patients needed additional operation; 4 for persisting infection and 3 for mechanical reason. The microbial outcome is good for all the patients, but the functional remained unsatisfactory for 4.2% (due to persistant pain or impaired mobility due to spacer, amputation or Girdlestone). Conclusion: the short or long intervals have the same result for mechanical and infectious outcome. These intervals have to be adopt according to bacteria’s type, infection type and patient’s comorbidities.

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Case report of a chronic Clostridium difficile infection after internal fixation of a proximal femur fracture – The therapeutic challenge of sporing bacteria

Lima Sottaz1, Emanuel Gautier2, Peter Wahn3,1. Clinique d’Orthopédie Hôpital Fribourgeois, 2BG Unfallklinik Frankfurt

Introduction: Bone and joint infections caused by Clostridium are rarely seen, especially involving C. difficile. We present a case of C. difficile infection after internal fixation of the proximal femur and discuss the therapeutic challenges caused by these sporing bacteria.

Methods: This is a case report with description of a single case and discussion of the diagnostic and therapeutic challenges.

Results: A 79 years-old male with a history of an active polycythemia vera sustained in August 2010 a trochanteric fracture of his left femur. Internal fixation with a trochanteric nail was performed urgently in another hospital. A postoperative massive hematoma caused by a lesion of the lateral femoral circumflex artery was treated by embolization. Four months later, the patient was referred to Vascular Surgery because of a painless mass of the thigh, corresponding to an encapsulated hematoma, which was drained. As biopsies identified C. glycolicum, an antibiotic treatment with initially piperacillin/tazobactam iv, relayed by amoxicillin/clavulanate orally, was given for 3 months. However no extensive debridement and no revision of the proximal femur were performed. It was only two and half years later that the patient was referred to Orthopedic Surgery as he had developed recurrence of the abscess. As the fracture had consolidated, the nail was removed, the abscess thoroughly debrided and the dead space filled with CaSO₄-beads with vancomycin. Microbiological samples identified C. difficile possibly associated with P. acnes. Under systemic antibiotic treatment with amoxicillin/clavulanatate, initially iv with oral relay, evolution was good, except that a large seroma had to be drained surgically after 3 months. Now 6 months after the end of systemic antibiotics, there are no signs of relapse.

Conclusion: Clostridium osteomyelitis is very rare. In this case, it probably was only caused by C. difficile, the former identification of C. glycolicum in 2010 through phenotypical API tests being less reliable than MALDI-TOF used in 2013. In terms of treatment, possible sporulation of these bacteria may be a therapeutic challenge.

Considering risks and benefits in this particular patient, we opted for a 6 months therapy in order to eradicate persisters reverting from spores. As this happens only in anaerobic environment, it might well be that longer treatment periods could be necessary.

What are the ‘costs’ to detect metastases from soft tissue sarcomas, that could be treated successfully

G. Ulrich Exner1, Charles E. Dumont2, Pascal A. Schai3, Michael Szente-Varga1

1OrthopädeZentrum (OZZ), 2orthopaedie zentrum zuerich, Luzerner Kantonsspital Wolhusen, 3Gefässmedizin Hirslanden Klinik Hirslanden Zurich

Rationale: We wish to bring some data about the expenses generated to detect metastases from soft tissue sarcomas, that could be treated successfully currently.

Materials and methods: Patients: From July 2008 until July 2013 our team has treated 49 patients with soft tissue sarcomas (myxoid liposarcoma 8, liposarcoma 3, synovial sarcoma 3, other types of high grade sarcoma 22) without synchronous metastases, mean /ũ is 2.5 years. Part of these patients were referred after incidental contaminated resections.

For systemic follow-up all patients got Thorax-CT at maximally 6-month-intervals.

Results: Only one patient had a local recurrence with a well differentiated 2.5 kg liposarcoma of sclerosing type of the ischio-crural muscle group 2 years following a R1 resection; local recurrence was resected following adjuvant radiotherapy, at present no metastases. None of the other 48 patients with definitive R0-resections developed local recurrence, but five developed metastases (lung, soft tissue distant to the primary site, cerebral) at 2 to 14 months after definitive local treatment of the primary tumor. 2 patients had thoracotomies for wedge resections, the other appeared not amenable to surgery. 4 of these patients died between 1 and 2 years after treatment of the primary tumor. One patient, now 78 years old, appears diseasefree 27 months after the primary treatment and 17 months after metastasectomy, 2 patients died from problems unrelated to their tumors.

Conclusions: The overall result shows a high rate of healing of the primary tumors following R0 resections. One of the 5 patients developing metastases appears DF at a mid-term interval. To achieve this curative result roughly all 49 patients had a total of more than 250 CT-scans over the period of observation. We interpret this as a contribution of those patients, who remained diseasefree or with unsuccessful treatment of their metastases to the one appearing to have definitely profited from careful systematic follow-up studies on all patients.
Resection of the distal fibula – is reconstruction required in any case?

**Paul Borbas, Kourosh Modaresi, Bruno Fuchs**

**Uniklinik Balgrist**

**Introduction:** Reconstructive surgery for ankle instability is frequently performed, most often in chronic lateral ligament instability. Most techniques focus on reconstruction with repair or reconstruction with either tendon autograft or allograft. After tumor resection of the distal fibula the methods for reconstruction remain controversial.

**Method:** (Case report) We present a 31-year-old male electrician who had a high grade telangiectatic osteosarcoma of the left distal fibula. The diagnosis was confirmed with a biopsy, two months after he detected an indolent swelling of the left lateral ankle region. A staging was performed and no suspect lesions for metastases were found. After discussing the case at an inter-disciplinary sarcoma board, neo-adjuvant chemotherapy were administered. Three months after biopsy the distal fibula with the tumor was finally resected. Preoperatively we discussed surgical options in detail with the patient who has high physical demands. We opted for the resection of the left distal fibula and reconstruction of the remaining soft tissues, but with postoperative immobilization in a non-weightbearing cast for six weeks and further mobilization in a stabilizing shoe for about three months. The surgical margins were free of tumor and the peroneal tendons could be preserved. Postoperatively, the patient received adjuvant chemotherapy. The patient was made aware that in case of ankle instability, arthrodesis may needed to be taken into account.

**Results:** At the latest follow-up 26 months postoperatively the patient is satisfied with the result, had an adequate ROM and no signs of instability, and moves without problems even on uneven grounds. Radiographically, there were no signs of osteoarthritis.

**Discussion:** Satisfactory ankle stability with normal ROM is possible even in a case after resection of the distal fibula without reconstruction. Use of allograft, or transposition of the fibula to reconstruct the lateral malleolus may not be always necessary.

**Conclusion:** A type III hemipelvectomy including resection of one acetabulum and the os pubis and the anterior inferior part of the acetabulum for spindle-cell/sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma.

Lucienne Gautier, Bruno Fuchs, Kourosh Modaresi

**Uniklinik Balgrist**

**Introduction:** Sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma is a rare type of rhabdomyosarcoma and occurs mainly in soft tissue of children and young adults, predominantly in the upper extremity and head-neck region. Intraosseous manifestations are extremely rare and possibly arise from metastatic lesions or per continuitatem. We present the 6 month results after right internal hemipelvectomy in a 29 year old male with a large spindle-cell/sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma.

**Methods:** A 29-year-old man noticed intermittent severe right-sided groin pain for one year. On clinical examination there is no tenderness on palpation or neurovascular deficiencies and a normal range of motion of the right hip. Conventional x-rays of the pelvis show an intraosseous tumor in the os pubis with lucent and sclerotic areas. The first MRI showed a contrast agent-enhancing process in the os pubis and the acetabulum of unknown etiology. Preoperative workup with transcutaneous needle biopsy showed a spindle-cell/sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma. The tumor cells were positive for muscle markers such as Myogenin and Myo D1.

Three cycles of preoperative chemotherapy were performed and regression of the adjacent soft tissue edema but no reduction of tumor mass was seen on the follow-up MRI. Right type III internal hemipelvectomy with resection of the os pubis and the anterior inferior part of the acetabulum was performed, with the acetabular osteotomy being performed intraarticularly under visualization but without dislocating the hip and thereby sparing the weight bearing zone. Postoperatively the patient received a combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

**Results:** Pathoanatomical analysis confirmed the diagnosis and showed wide tumor margins. At 6 months from the operation the patient shows no local or distant tumor recurrence. He is able to walk normally without instability or pain in the hip joint.

**Conclusion:** A type III hemipelvectomy including resection of one fourth of the acetabulum (but sparing the weight bearing zone of the acetabulum) and the os pubis can result in good functional outcomes even in young and active patients.

**P53**

**P54**

**P55**

**P56**

The impact of molecular diagnostics: Dedifferentiated Liposarcoma of the spermatic cord

Kourosh Modaresi*, Beata Bode-Lesniewska*, Christiane Pietsch*, Bruno Fuchs*

*Uniklinik Balgrist, *Universitätsklinikum Zürich

**Introduction:** There are more than 50 different soft tissue sarcomas described up to now. Each one has its own biology. The histological and IHC analyses continue to be the mainstay in the diagnosis of soft tissue sarcomas. However, with the advent of molecular diagnostics, many soft tissue sarcomas become reclassified, and the biology becomes more predictable. Herein, we report a patient who was wrongly diagnosed for years, but than to modern molecular diagnostics, the biology and outcome can be predicted.

**Methods:** A 60 year old man had a lump in his scrotal area whereupon the testis was consequently removed. The pathology at that time was read as malignant mesothelioma, no adjuvant treatment was chosen. Six years later, the tumor relapsed locally in the inguinal area. Local preoperative radiation therapy (50 Gy) was performed, and then the tumor was resected together with parts of the superior ramus, but sparing the vessels (R1 resection). The histology at this time was read as ‘MFH’. The patient was followed over years, with local postoperative alterations indistinguishable from local recurrence. Again 7 years later, a seemingly increased soft tissue mass locally was noticed. Because this mass clearly progressed over the following year, an ultrasound-guided biopsy was performed.

**Results:** RT-PCR and FISH analyses found an amplification of the mdm2 gene, indicating a dedifferentiated liposarcoma of the spermatic cord. At no time there were any metastases detected. The patient underwent a complete local excision with placement of a local pedicled rectus abdominis flap. In retrospective, this has always been the same tumor, but at the time of initial diagnosis the molecular diagnostics tools were not yet available. At two years of follow up, the patient has no pain and no evidence of recurrence.

**Conclusions:** A dedifferentiated liposarcoma of the spermatic cord can be mistaken for another inguinal soft tissue sarcoma. Molecular diagnostics can clearly identify this biological entity. It is typical for this tumor that it locally recurs but only infrequently metastasizes (20%).

Denosumab, a RANK ligand inhibitor, leads to Mineralization of an Intracortical Aneurysmal Bone Cyst

Kourosh Modaresi*, Beata Bode-Lesniewska*, Bruno Fuchs*

*Uniklinik Balgrist, *Universitätsklinikum Zürich

**Introduction:** The treatment of giant cell tumors of bone mainly involves curettage and bone grafting, despite the fact that it may be at times destructive and put a joint into jeopardy. Recently, the use of Denosumab, a RANK ligand inhibitor was popularized because it leads to a mineralization of the tumor. Giant cell tumors of soft tissues are usually resected, and Denosumab has not been described for this entity. Because we diagnosed a patient with a GCT of soft tissues at a difficult anatomic location, we proceeded to use Denosumab.

**Methods:** A 20 year old saleswoman noticed a swelling in the proximal forearm particularly over the radial head. An initial biopsy revealed a giant cell tumor of the soft tissues. Because complete excision was not an option because of the relationship to neurovascular structures, we proceeded to treat the patient with Denosumab (6 injections à 120 mg Prolia).

**Results:** Intraoperatively, the lesion became mineralized such that it could be resected en bloc without compromising neurovascular structures. Surprisingly, the final pathology did not confirm our initial diagnosis of a giant cell tumor of the soft tissues, but an intracortical aneurysmal bone cyst.

**Conclusions:** The efficacy of Denosumab in the setting of an intracortical aneurysmal bone cyst has not yet been described yet. Interestingly, had the initial diagnosis been correct initially, the patient would not have received this drug and therefore could not have benefited from this desired effect.
Localized Tuberculosis of the Pelvis: The Importance of Early Diagnosis
Kourosh Modaress, Bruno Fuchs Ulniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: Bone and soft tissue lesions need to be thoroughly and systematically assessed and staged. Depending on the biology, the treatment not only varies much, but can at times be entirely wrong. Therefore, a team approach is required which involves all necessary subspecialties. Herein, we present a patient with a localized pelvic lesion which turned out to be a rare differential diagnosis for which surgical therapy would be wrong.

Methods: A 42 year old female patient showed up with a history of 4 week long pain in the left pelvis, particularly night pain accompanied by night sweats. NSAR only incompletely relieved this pain. The patient is worried because her mother died of cancer. Imaging showed a lytic lesion in the acetabulum and ilium, with accompanying soft tissue extension. Staging did not reveal any other lesion neither in the skeleton nor in the chest. A CT-guided biopsy was performed.

Results: There were no tumor cells found, however, a Ziehl-Neelsen staining revealed a localized tuberculosis. Anti tuberculosis-static therapy was initiated. There was a prolonged drainage through the biopsy site, undermining the importance of being prohibitive towards a surgical intervention in such cases.

Conclusions: Localized tuberculosis of the pelvis is a rare finding. Any skeletal lesion needs to be carefully approached and characterized to avoid treatment associated complications and dismal consequences. A thorough biological characterization of a lesion is mandatory before initiation of any treatment.

Meta-Analysis on Biomechanical Properties of Meniscus Repairs. Are Devices better than Sutures?
Claudio Rosso1, Matthias Wimmer1, Dan Buckland1, Patrick Sadoghi2, Patrick Vavken1, Victor Valderrabano1 Universitätsklinikum Bonn, 1Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University Hospital Bonn , 2University Hospital Basel, University of Basel, Orthopaedic Department, 1Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical University Graz

Introduction: Meniscal repair devices have been extensively tested during the past decades as reported in the literature. Reviewing the different meniscal repair devices and sutures with their respective biomechanical properties.

Methods: For this meta-analysis, we conducted a systematic online search using PubMed, EMBASE, CCTR, and CINAHL using the search terms "Meniscos OR Meniscal AND Biomechanics AND Repair", Load-to-failure (LIF), stiffness, and cyclic outcome measures were extracted independently and in duplicate. The systematic search revealed 841 manuscripts in total. After exclusion of duplicates and irrelevant publications, 41 studies remained for final analysis. The studies were published in English and German from 1995 to 2013. Due to differing cyclic force protocols, cyclic outcomes had to be excluded.

Results: Overall, sutures had a higher load-to-failure (suture: 877 ± 0.3N (weighted mean ± standard error), device: 863 ± 0.1N) and stiffness (suture: 8.9 ± 0.1 N/mm, device: 8.6 ± 0.04N/mm) than devices, both p < 0.05. In LIT testing, PDS 0 Vertical (145.0 ± 8.1 N), OrthoCord 2-0 (143.6 ± 11.3 N) and Ethibond No Vertical (133.4 ± 7.7 N) were the strongest sutures and Meniscal Viper (90.0 ± 9.1 N), MaxFire Vertical (136.2 ± 11.3 N) and FastFix Vertical (115.2 ± 1.6 N) were the strongest devices. Second-generation devices were significantly stronger and stiffer than first-generation devices (p < 0.001).

Conclusions: Suture repair remains the gold standard with a vertically oriented suture configuration showing superior load-to-failure values compared to a horizontal configuration. Nevertheless, some meniscal repair devices have similar biomechanical properties to suture repairs. Both suture repairs and devices have a place in meniscal restoration.

HOW TO IMPROVE PREOPERATIVE RADIOTHERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF SOFT-TISSUE SARCOMA
Sabra Leupi1, Marco Germann1, Franziska Seeli1, Beata Bodz-Lesniakski1, Gabriela Studen1, Kourosh Modaress1, Bruno Fuchs1 Ulniklinik Balgrist, 1Universitätsklinik Balgrist, 1Universitätsspital Zürich

Introduction: Soft-tissue sarcoma (STS) is treated by a combination of radiotherapy (RT) and surgery. Preoperative RT may have better results concerning local control and evaluation of the tumors than postoperative RT although wound complications were shown to be significantly increased with preoperative RT. The purpose of this study was to identify risk factors for wound complications (WC) in patients treated with preoperative radiotherapy.

Methods: In this retrospective study a total of 64 patients treated with preoperative RT before resection of a STS between 2002 and 2012 were evaluated for postoperative wound complications. 4 patients underwent neoadjuvant and 4 patients underwent adjuvant chemotherapy (CT).

Results: 9 patients underwent conventional RT (CRT), 45 3D-conformal RT (3D-cRT) and 10 Intensity-modulated RT (IG-IMRT). The mean dose applied was 50.2 Gy (24-64), 29 patients were additionally treated with the flab method RT for maximum dose build-up to the skin. All operations were performed by two surgeons (Group A and B). The postoperative WC were monitored in terms of the necessity of surgical revision.

Results: Uneventful primary wound closure was observed in 42 (66%) patients, while 4 (6%) had secondary wound healing and 5 (8%) were treated with VAC-therapy. A total of 18 (28%) patients needed additional surgery. No significant differences concerning revision surgery were observed comparing the different RT techniques. Patients that needed additional surgery had a significantly (p = 0.1) higher mean planning target volume (PTV) of 2568cc compared to 1633cc of 4 patients undergoing neoadjuvant CT needed additional surgery (2 VAC removal, 1 WC). No WC was observed in 4 patients undergoing adjuvant CT. In the flab group, 3 of 28 needed additional surgery which was significantly (p = 0.01) less then in the group which had no flab therapy (15/36). In group A, 16/27 patients needed additional surgery which was significantly (p = 0.0001) more then in group B (2/37).

Conclusion: Overall WC in our series was 28%. We observed significantly less WC in patients who underwent flab therapy indicating that increased RT dosage does not lead to increased WC. Significantly less WC were however observed in group B which might show that surgical management is an important parameter regarding WC. In our series PTV was higher in the revision group, although a significant difference was not achieved.

IN VIVO GLENOHUMERAL TRANSLATION UNDER EXTERNAL LOADING IN AN OPEN-MRI SETUP
Claudio Rosso,1 Manuela Calderone, Dan Buckland, Anne Buettner, Ugo Delia Cena, Andrea Cernea Universitätsklinikum Basel und Universität Basel, 1Department of Information Engineering, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, University of Sassari, Sassari, Italy

Introduction: The evaluation of the gleno-humeral joint (GHJ) laxity requires an accurate estimate of the joint translations (linear displacements of the humeral head center (HHC) with respect to the glenoid) resulting from shoulder movements and/or external forces applied. To the authors’ knowledge, a few studies have been conducted to estimate GHJ translations in vivo but data under loading conditions has not been collected yet. The aim of this study was to develop a non invasive methodology based on magnetic resonance

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Lentivirus mediated VEGF gene transfer enhances human muscle derived stem cells survival and proliferation after transplantation in a strain-injured muscle.

**Methods:** Procedures undertaken with human tissue and mice were in compliance with national and international guidelines. Human muscle samples were obtained during corrective orthopedic surgery of patients without any known neuromuscular disease. After enzymatic digestion of muscle biopsies, the fractions of HDCMS that express pericyte markers (CD146) or co-express myogenic (CD56) and endothelial cell markers (CD34, CD144) were isolated by flow cytometry. After infection with two lentiviral vectors encoding respectively the Renilla luciferase bioluminescence marker gene (Rluc) and the human VEGF165 (VEGF), HMSC were injected in gastrocnemius muscles of immunodeficient mice, 4 days after muscle injuries. Cell survival and cell proliferation was assessed at various time post injection using non-invasive bioluminescent techniques.

**Results:** We isolated human MCP, defined as CD45-/CD56-/CD146-/CD34-/CD144- cells and human pericytes, defined as CD45-/CD56-/CD146+/CD34+/CD144+ cells. They represent respectively, 56.5 ± 4% and 4.1 ± 1.3% of the analyzed population. After lentiviral infection, 86% of the cells expressed VEGF and transduced MCP and pericytes kept their myogenic properties to proliferate and to form myotubes in vitro, with fusion indexes respectively of 85% and 15%. By imaging luciferase activity up to one-month post injection, quantitative analyses showed that VEGF-pericytes and VEGF-MPC proliferate early after injection, with a fourfold and a twofold increase as compared to control cells.

**Conclusions:** VEGF expression improves significantly HMSC survival and proliferation after transplantation in injured muscle. The effect of VEGF-expressing cells on the modulation of angiogenesis, muscle regeneration and fibrosis is currently under investigation. With further development, this approach could lead to the development of novel therapeutic options for promoting the healing of skeletal muscle after any injury.

**P63**

Worse prognosis in osteosarcoma patients expressing IGF-1 in a tissue microarray

Thorsten Jentschch, Bernhard Robl, Maren Husmann, Beata Bode-Lesniewska, Bruno Fuchs

**Uniklinik Balgrist**

**Introduction:** Currently, it is not possible to define OS patients at greatest risk for short survival times. Valuable tumor biomarkers for OS remain barely studied. Insulin-growth factor-1 (IGF-1) has been controversially discussed as a tumor biomarker for OS, but has not been studied as an indicator of prognosis so far. A valuable tool to investigate tumor biomarkers in a large number of tissue samples is a tissue microarray (TMA). Our goal was the investigation of IGF-1 in regard to patient demographics and survival time in OS patients using a TMA.

**Materials and methods:** Tumor tissue specimens from surgical primary tumor resections were collected from bone tissue of 67 patients with OS. A TMA was set up and sections were stained with anti-IGF-1. Grading was performed in a semi-quantitative manner by two independent investigators who were blinded to clinical information. Kaplan-Meier curves were used to calculate overall patient survival and the log-rank test assessed statistical differences between groups.

**Results:** We analyzed immunohistochemical expression of IGF-1 in a human OS TMA. Follow up data was available for every patient and the mean clinical follow up time was 98 (range 7 to 231) months. The overall 5-ysr was 73%. Twenty-two (33%) patients stained negatively and 44 (66%) patients stained positively for IGF-1. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis did not show significant differences between groups stratified for gender (p = .808) or tumor type (p = .345). Significantly shorter survival was seen in patients ≥40 years (p = .003), axial tumors (p = .0008), local recurrence of the tumor (p = .0001), non-responders to chemotherapy (p = .0007) and metastasis (p <.0001). Significantly shorter survival was also detected with expression of IGF-1 (p = .007). The 5-ysr for patients expressing IGF-1 was 63% compared to 92% in patients without expression of IGF-1. Non-responders to chemotherapy, who stained positively for IGF-1 manifested a significantly (p = .002) shorter survival. The shortest survival time of 50 ± 10 months (p <.0001) was found in patients with metastasis and expression of IGF-1.

**Conclusion:** OS patients ≥40 years, axial tumor location, non-responders to chemotherapy, local recurrence, metastasis and expression of IGF-1 in primary tumor tissue are prone to significantly shorter survival times. Expression of IGF-1 in primary tumor tissue appears to significantly affect the aggressiveness of OSs and may predict survival time, irrespective of the presence of metastasis.

**P64**

Intraarterial cisplatin-based chemotherapy in an osteosarcoma xenograft model

Bernhard Robl, Sander Botter, Matthias Artl, Kersten Berndt, Bruno Fuchs

**Uniklinik Balgrist**

**Introduction:** Osteosarcoma (OS) is the most common malignant cancer of bone among adolescents with 5 year-survival rates of approximately 60%, despite the application of multi-drug chemotherapy. In contrast to standard systemic intravenous (IV) application of highly cytotoxic drugs such as cisplatin (CDDP), intraarterial (IA) chemotherapy allows the delivery of higher drug loads to the tumor. Thus, it can potentially improve treatment efficacy (e.g. reduce metastasis) and reduce side effects such as nephrotoxicity. In order to compare the efficacies of IV and IA chemotherapy under controlled conditions, we sought to determine an effective concentration of IA CDDP in two pilot studies first.

**Methods:** OS was induced in an orthotopic xenograft mouse model using 143B OS cells stably transduced with mCherry. Tumor growth was monitored using caliper measurements as well as in vivo fluorescence imaging and microCT scans. CDDP (at 0.5, 2 or 4 mg/kg) or vehicle was slowly infused under sterile conditions using custom-made polyethylene catheters (Berndt et al., JAALAS, 2012) and a syringe pump at approximately 19 days post cell injection. This procedure was repeated three times, once every three days. Kidney function was evaluated using the fluorescent dye GFRivivo and body weights were monitored. After sacrifice, metastases were visualized via X-gal staining.

**Results:** Compared to a vehicle-treated group, we observed a dose dependent reduction of relative tumor size (up to 87%) with IA injections of CDDP. Of the tested concentrations, we consider 4 mg/kg of CDDP as an effective concentration because a reduction of tumor volume was observed without a threatening reduction of body weight. Furthermore, preliminary results showed reduced kidney function when 4 mg/kg of IA CDDP were administered. Whether kidney damage will be larger if the animals will be treated with 4 mg/kg of IV CDDP has yet to be established.

**Conclusion:** We show that 4 mg/kg of CDDP is sufficient for reducing tumor size. Hence, this concentration will be used for subsequent studies evaluating the efficacy of IA versus IV chemotherapy.
Functional characterization of C-MET point mutations in Osteosarcoma cells in vitro
Knut Husmann, Else-Marie Pedersen, Walter Born, Bruno Fuchs
Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: Osteosarcoma (OS) is the most frequent primary malignant tumor of bone typically affecting children and young adults. It is associated with a poor prognosis, frequently up to 20% of patients with metastasis at diagnosis. C-MET is a receptor tyrosine kinase with hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) as natural ligand. In a variety of solid tumors the activity of C-MET is deregulated by mutation and/or amplification of the corresponding gene. Here we investigated the functional properties of the identified C-MET point mutations on cell proliferation and cell migration were analyzed in vitro. In addition, the cell lines overexpressing HA-tagged C-MET proteins with the identified point mutations were generated by retroviral infection. The functional properties of the identified C-MET point mutations on cell proliferation and cell migration were analyzed in vitro. Furthermore, mice injected with Dunn cells developed micrometastases in the lungs and one week in the liver, consistent with our in vivo tumor models. The major aim of this study was to evaluate if the identified C-MET point mutations have an effect on the functional properties of C-MET in different in vitro assays.

Methods: For mutation analysis of the intracellular domain of C-MET the individual exons were amplified from genomic DNA of primary OS cells by PCR. Nucleotide sequences of the amplification products were verified by sequencing in both directions. SAOS-2/LacZ cells stably overexpressing HA-tagged C-MET proteins with the identified point mutations were generated by retroviral infection. The functional properties of the individual C-MET point mutations on cell proliferation and cell migration were analyzed in vitro. In addition, the cell lines were starved and afterwards incubated with 100 ng/ml HGF in the presence or absence of specific C-MET inhibitors. Phosphorylation of the kinase domain of C-MET was analyzed by western blots.

Results: We identified three C-MET point mutations each localized in the juxtamembrane domain of the protein. A reduced proliferation rate was found for the cells overexpressing C-MET with the G1137A point mutation. In the cell migration assay we observed for the cells overexpressing C-MET with the T1010I point mutation an increased cell migration in the absence of HGF. For all cell lines overexpressing the different C-MET proteins an HGF dependent increase in cell migration was observed. When the C-MET overexpressing cells were treated with HGF no difference in phosphorylation of the kinase region was found. However, for the cells with the G1137A point mutation a reduced sensitivity to C-MET inhibitors was observed.

Conclusions: Individual C-MET point mutations identified in primary OS cells impair the functional properties in C-MET overexpressing cells and therefore may contribute to osteosarcomagenesis. The influence of the C-MET point mutations will be further analyzed in vivo tumor models.

The Aggressive Phenotype of LM8 Osteosarcoma Cells is Partially Dependent on a Reduced Latency in the Metastatic Niche
Matthias Artt, Ingo Banke, Josefine Bartz, Ram Mohan Ram Kumar, Roman Muff, Walter Born, Bruno Fuchs Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: Metastasis is the major cause of death of osteosarcoma patients and the diagnosis of disseminated single cells or small cell clusters remains difficult. Furthermore, those micrometastases often rest in a state of dormancy, which might enable them to escape the chemotherapeutic treatment, and then induce recurrence of the disease after years or even decades. We recently showed that murine Dunn osteosarcoma cells equipped with a lacZ reporter-gene provide an interesting new experimental system to study tumor cell dormancy. Here, in a in vivo time-course study, LacZ-transduced Dunn and LM8 cells were injected into the tail-vein of C3H mice and individual animals in both groups were randomly selected and sacrificed at different time points up to 25 days after tumor cell injection. In a second survival study, C3H mice i.v. injected with LacZ-transduced Dunn and LM8 cells were examined until they became moribund and had to be sacrificed. In vitro both cell lines were compared regarding their intercellular adhesion, contact inhibition and invasiveness. Furthermore gene expression profiles of both cell lines were compared in a mouse genome RNA microarray.

Results: In the time-course study, tail vein-injected Dunn and LM8 cells colonize the lungs of C3H mice at one week in vivo, but Dunn and LM8 cells remained in situ for a prolonged survival of the mice. In vitro, Dunn cells showed less invasiveness and stronger contact inhibition and intercellular adhesion than LM8 cells and several cancer- and dormancy-related genes were differentially expressed.

Conclusion: In conclusion, Dunn, compared to LM8 cells, have a similar capability but a longer latency to form macrometastases and provide an interesting new experimental system to study tumor cell dormancy.

Photodynamic Therapy as a Novel Strategy for the Treatment of Osteosarcoma
Daniela Meier, Carmen Campanile, Sander Botter, Christopher Bühler, Matthias Artt, Walter Born, Bruno Fuchs Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) is minimally invasive and makes use of a photosensitizer, a small molecule with laser light-induced cytotoxic activity (Cazemier et al. 2006). Its ultimate therapeutic goals include most complete tumor resection, elimination of tumor tissue at delicate sites and the inhibition of metastatic spread. We propose an experimental setup for the application of PDT in OS, and present in vivo and in vitro results of the liposomal formulation and PDT treatment using three different formulations of the PS mTHPC; Foscan, a liposomal formulaion, and a lipid-nanoparticle based carrier (LNP). Methods: mTHPC uptake was quantified by measuring the fluorescence in a spectrophotometer, after PS incubation in human 143 OS cells. Dark- and photo-toxicity was assessed by incubating 143B cells 5h in the dark with mTHPC. The cells were kept in the dark or illuminated with a laser diode. The toxicity was quantified with a WST-1 assay and light microscopy. Local. i.t. tumor formation was induced by i.t. injection of human 143B OS cells in female SCID mice. Mice were i.v. injected with the three PS formulations. Uptake of the PS was measured in hind limbs, using a fluormeter, IVIS and FMT. In vivo PDT was applied by injection the PS, after a DLI of 24h the primary tumor was illuminated with laser light to induce PDT. PDT treatment were followed by caliper and in vivo imaging techniques such as IVIS, µCT and X-ray.

Results: The uptake of Foscarn was faster compared to Foslip and the LNP in vitro. All formulations cause cytotoxicity upon light illumination. The liposomal formulation and LNP (mTHPC) have a lower dark-toxicity compared to Foscarn.

In vivo results showed a significant, time-dependent uptake of all three PS formulations in the primary tumor. Foscan, the liposomal formulation, and LNP (mTHPC) were taken up more efficiently in the tumor less than in the control leg. Induction of PDT caused a significant slower tumor growth for Foscarn and the liposomal formulation. Conclusion: Efficacy of all Foscarn, liposomal mTHPC formulation and LNP (mTHPC) was shown in vivo. Efficient uptake of all mTHPC formulation in primary OS tumors was also shown. Foslip was proven to be more effective in our mouse model compared to the clinically used mTHPC formulation, Foscarn. The next step is to apply PDT in a syngeneic OS mouse model with an intact immune system, to demonstrate more efficient tumor eradication.

ΔNp63α-GLI2 oncongenic network in Osteosarcoma progression
Ram Mohan Ram Kumar, Walter Born, Bruno Fuchs Uniklinik Balgrist

Introduction: Osteosarcoma (OS) is the most common type of primary bone cancer. It arises in bone during periods of rapid growth and primarily affects adolescents and young adults. ΔNp63α and GLI2, a hedgehog signaling component, are transcription factors capable of inducing motility, invasion and metastasis in many types of cancer but their role in OS is poorly understood. We are investigating the influence of ΔNp63α and GLI2 in OS progression and our study provided a mechanistic link between the established tumorigenic factor, ΔNp63α and GLI2 signaling in osteosarcoma.

Methods: ΔNp63α stable SaOS-2 cell lines were generated by retroviral infection. The expression levels of ΔNp63α and GLI2 was analyzed by western blot (WB) and real time PCR (qRT PCR) in OS cell lines. Co-expression analysis of ΔNp63α and GLI2 were performed by immunocytochemistry. Efficacy of knock down of p63 was accessed by WB. ChIP assay was done to determine the promoter binding activity of ΔNp63α to GLI2. FACS was utilised for determination of cell cycle stage on treatment with GANT61.

Results: We could show that expression of ΔNp63α and GLI2 is upregulated in invasive OS cell lines. Silencing of p63 in OS cells endogenously expressing ΔNp63α attenuated the expression of GLI2 indicating that GLI2 is regulated by ΔNp63α. ChIP assay revealed that ΔNp63α directly binds to GLI2 promoter. In ΔNp63α overexpressed SaOS-2 cell lines (SaOS-2-ΔNp63α) treatment with GLI2 inhibitor (GANT61) in SaOS-2-ΔNp63α decreased the expression of ΔNp63α in SaOS-2-ΔNp63α cells by 50% as determined by qRT-PCR. However, in SaOS-2 cells the expression of ΔNp63α was reduced in SaOS-2-ΔNp63α cells compared to SaOS-2 cells.

Conclusion: ΔNp63α decreases the expression of GLI2 via a direct interaction with GLI2 promoter. The ΔNp63α/GLI2 axis is a potential therapeutic target in OS.

ΔNp63α-GLI2 oncongenic network in Osteosarcoma progression
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Chromosomal instability of osteosarcoma cells during long-term in vitro culture contributes to altered gene expression

Romain Muff¹, Michael Baudis², Bruno Fuchs³
¹Uniklinik Balgrist, ²University of Zürich

Introduction: Osteosarcoma (OS) is characterized by genomic instability including whole chromosome losses or multiplications, regional copy imbalances and structural rearrangements. By microarray analysis, we have shown the instability of gene expression during prolonged in vitro culture in five out of six investigated OS cell lines. Here, we have applied array comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) to explore the in vitro genomic stability of osteoblastic SAOS LM5 cells.

Methods: SAOS and LM5 cells were cultured in vitro to achieve more than 150 cell doublings. DNA from early and late passaged cells was extracted and submitted to aCGH analysis using Affymetrix HD CytoScan arrays. Regions of copy number (CN) gains and losses were compared between the different samples as well as with a published SAOS cell line genotype.

Results: Compared to the diploid human genome, the mean extent CN gains and losses involved 40% (range 38–43%) and 6% (range 5–8%), respectively, of cell line genomes. The ratio of gain to loss was highest (8.6) in early SAOS cells, most likely in closest representation of the primary tumor, and lowest (4.8) in late LM5 cells. During in vitro culture, late passaged LM5 cells showed 4.9% CN gains and 7.7% and 6.9% CN losses, respectively, in late versus early passaged cells. Commonly affected regions in SAOS and LM5 were CN gain in 12p and 20q and CN loss in 3qter, 9q and 14q. Comparison of aCGH analysis and microarray expression data showed a correlation predominantly of up-regulated genes and CN gains (ratio of observed to expected of 2.4 and 3.0 in SAOS and LM5, respectively), located in SAOS in 1qg and 12p and in LM5 in 4p, 12p and 21q, respectively. Passage independent differences included a gain in 5p and losses in 3p, 4q, 20q and Xq in L5 compared to SAOS-2.

In conclusion: OS osteosarcoma cell line SAOS and its metastatic derivative LM5 display similar amounts of 45–48% CN alterations with 5–8 fold more gains than losses and with different affected chromosomes. During in vitro culture both cell lines showed an 11–12% change in CN alterations, correlating in part with altered gene expression. Although part of CN alterations overlapped in SAOS and LM5 cells, the observed genomic instability during in vitro culture may differentially affect the cellular behaviour and may also obscure the analysis of metabolism relevant genes.

SPATIAL ASSOCIATION OF SUBCHONDRAL OSTEOESIS WITH ENHANCED MARROW IMMUNE CELL INFILTRATION AND OSTEOCLAST ACTIVITY IN HUMAN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Jeroen Geurts¹, Amit Patel², Benjamin Pippenger², Michael Hirschmann³, Magdalena Müller-Gerb³, Victor Valderrabano³, Thomas Hügle³
¹Universitätsklinik Basel, ²Anatomisches Institut, Universität Basel, ³Kantonsspital-Basel Bruderholz

Introduction: Osteosclerosis of subchondral bone is a pathological hallmark of osteoarthritis (OA) and increasing evidence supports a pivotal and active role of this tissue in experimental and human OA. The cellular and molecular regulation of subchondral osteosclerosis remains poorly understood. In this study we investigated whether an interaction between immune and bone systems might contribute to the regulation of subchondral osteosclerosis in human knee OA.

Methods: Subchondral bone mineralization density (BMD) of explanted OA tibial plateau was mapped using computed tomography (CT-OA) analysis. Presence of immune cells in subchondral bone marrow tissue was investigated using immunohistological and flow cytometry analyses for expression of CD3 (T-lymphocytes), CD20 (B-lymphocytes) and CD68 (macrophages). Functional osteoclasts were identified by histochemical staining for tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP). Outgrowth cultures of bone were stained for TRAP and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity.

Results: The subchondral OS cell line SAOS and its metastatic derivative LM5 displayed similar amounts of 45–48% CN alterations with 5–8 fold more gains than losses and with different affected chromosomes. During in vitro culture both cell lines showed an 11–12% change in CN alterations, correlating in part with altered gene expression. Although part of CN alterations overlapped in SAOS and LM5 cells, the observed genomic instability during in vitro culture may differentially affect the cellular behaviour and may also obscure the analysis of metabolism relevant genes.

MULTINUCLEATED CD68+ CELLS, TRAP STAINING REVEALED A STRONG INCREASE IN FUNCTIONAL OSTEOCLASTS THAT ASSOCIATED WITH CD34+ VASCULAR STRUCTURES. SCLEROTIC OA OSTEOCLASTS SHOWED DECREASED MINERALIZATION AND INCREASED BASAL ALP ACTIVITY. LACK OF OSTEOCLAST ALP INDUCTION BY CONDITIONED MEDIUM FROM SCLEROTIC SUBCHONDRAL BONE PIECES SUGGESTED A PRORESORPTIVE IMMUNE IN CELLENT INFILTRATED MARROW TISSUE.

Conclusion: We have shown for the first time that the interaction between immune and bone systems, including enhanced osteoclast activity and immune cell infiltration, along phenotypic alterations in osteosarcoma cells is involved in uncoupled and aberrant bone remodeling that leads to osteosclerosis in OA.

SPECT/CT IMAGING OF ANKLE OSTEOARTHRITIS: ENHANCED BONE-SEEKING TRACER UPTAKE CORRESPONDS HISTOLOGICALLY TO SUBCHONDRAL INTRAMEMBRANOUS BONE FORMATION

Jochen Paul, Jeroen Geurts, Alexej Barg, Martin Kretzschmar, Geert Pagenstert, Ueli Studler, Thomas Hügle, Victor Valderrabano

Introduction: Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT/CT) enables accurate non-invasive and simultaneous acquisition of information on tissue morphology and biological processes in disease. SPECT/CT imaging using a radiographic bone tracer-dicarboxypropane-diphosphonate (99mTc-DPD) P71 is frequently applied for differential diagnosis of foot and ankle pathologies that pose a diagnostic challenge due to their complex anatomy. Uptake of bone-seeking radiotracers is primarily determined by the degree of bone perfusion and chemosorption to the hydroxyapatite structure of bone tissue and can be influenced by environmental factors, such as pH. In this study we sought to identify the cellular and morphological changes that associate with increased 99mTc-DPD uptake in ankle joint osteoarthritis (OA).

Methods: Six consecutive patients with end-stage ankle OA scheduled for total ankle replacement received preoperative 99mTc-dicarboxypropane-diphosphonate (99mTc-DPD) SPECT/CT scanning. The American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) and visual analog scale (VAS) were used for clinical evaluation of preoperative function and pain. Tissue morphology of tibial and talar resection specimens from SPECT/CT-positive and negative areas was evaluated using histology. Osteoclast activity was visualized using tartrate-resistant acid phosphate (TRAP) staining.

Results: Preoperative AOFAS and VAS were 40 ± 15 points and 7.5 ± 0.84. Accumulation of 99mTc-DPD was located beneath the subchondral bone plate of both tibial and talar resection specimens and exclusively found in areas displaying subchondral bone sclerosis. Hematoxylin and eosin staining revealed marked infiltration of subchondral marrow spaces by fibrovascular tissue and abundant bone-lining osteoblasts in SPECT/CT-positive tissues. Active osteoclasts were surrounded by randomly oriented collagen fibers. De novo and pre-existing bone tissues were devoid of TRAP-positive osteoclasts. Osteoclast presence was significantly correlated with 99mTc-DPD uptake, collagen deposition and severity of cartilage degeneration.

Conclusion: SPECT/CT is a valuable imaging modality for human OA. Histologic evaluation of SPECT/CT-positive ankle OA revealed subchondral intramembranous bone formation rather than increased bone remodeling through coupled activities of osteoclasts and osteoblasts.

SHORTER SURVIVAL TIME IN PATIENTS WITH OSTEOOSARCOMA EXPRESSING MSH2 AND MSH6 IN A HUMAN TISSUE MICROARRAY

Thorsten Jentsch, Bernhard Rohlf, Maren Husmann, Beata Bode-Lesniewska, Bruno Fuchs
¹Universitätsklinik Zürich, ²Uniklinik Balgrist, ³Universitätsklinik Zürich

Introduction: Currently, it is not possible to define osteosarcoma (OS) patients at greatest risk for short survival times. Valuable biomarkers for OS remain barely studied. Recently, soft tissue sarcomas have been linked to a deficiency in mismatch repair (MMR) genes. However, MSH2 protein homolog 2 (MSH2) and 6 (MSH6) are MMR proteins that have not been reported as biomarkers for OS. Our goal was the analysis of two possible biomarkers, MSH2 and MSH6 in regard to survival time in OS patients using a tissue microarray (TMA).

Materials and methods: 100 tumor tissue specimens from surgical primary tumor resections were collected from bone tissue of 67 patients with OS. A TMA was set up and sections were stained with MSH2 and MSH6. Grading was performed in a semi-quantitative manner by two independent investigators who were blinded to clinical information. Kaplan-Meier curves were used to calculate overall patient survival and the log-rank test assessed statistical differences between groups.
Three Dimensional Measurement of In Vivo Shoulder Abduction Using Biplane Fluoroscopy in Healthy Shoulders – The Glenohumeral Rhythm

Nils Henning Horn, Erik Gipart PhD, Peter J. Millett MD MSc, 1, 2
1, 2Steadman Philippon Research Institute

The purpose of this study was to measure the 3D position of the scapula, humerus and clavicle in healthy subjects during abduction in the scapular plane with biplane fluoroscopy in order to be able to relate the global humeral elevation angle to the glenohumeral angle.

The hypothesis of this study is:

The global humeral elevation angle is positively correlated to the glenohumeral angle and is linear throughout abduction (Inman’s 2:1 ratio).

Ten healthy male subjects (5 right / 5 left shoulders; age: 30 ± 7 years; height: 184 ± 5 cm; weight: 90 ± 9 kg) were recruited according to the inclusion criteria for this study. Data collection consisted of two parts, namely performing abduction in the biplane fluoroscopy system, and a CT scan of the shoulder. The motions were recorded simultaneously with a standard Motion Analysis System (MAS) using retro reflective markers to provide context for the analysis.

The hypothesis is confirmed by the results. The regression analysis proved the statistical significance of the linearity. The elevation was depicted at a 1.61:1 ratio and a slope of 0.619 for the included subjects. Therefore all data were within the 4-sigma confident interval according to Inman and Abbott (1944) who first quantified the glenohumeral to scapulothoracic ratio as a linear 2:1 ratio. In this 1944 study, the findings were based on x-rays taken in 45 degree increments in the coronal plane of arm elevation. Since the first 30 degrees were found by Inman to have inconsistent motion patterns, they were described as a setting phase and excluded from the calculations. Since we found motion variability overall throughout abduction, the first 30 degrees of elevation were included. In general, this study provides the clinician and researcher with basic background information and more detailed data about the shoulder motion with the highest level of accuracy. It can be a useful tool and data for the clinician for clinical evaluation to look at potential pathologies and further research pre and post surgery can lead to evaluations, changed techniques and better outcome for the patients.

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Three Dimensional Measurement of In Vivo Shoulder Abduction Using Biplane Fluoroscopy in Healthy Shoulders – The Scapular Rotations relative to Humeral Elevatio

Nils Henning Horn, Erik Gipart PhD, Peter J. Millett MD MSc 1, 2
1, 2Steadman Philippon Research Institute

The purpose of this study was to measure the 3D position of the scapula, humerus and clavicle in healthy subjects during abduction in the scapular plane with biplane fluoroscopy in order to be able to correlate the acromioclavicular rotations during abduction to global humeral elevation. The hypothesis of this study is:

The acromioclavicular elevation (medial rotation), scapular posterior tilt and protraction/retraction are linearly correlated to global humeral elevation.

Ten healthy male subjects (5 right / 5 left shoulders; age: 30 ± 7 years; height: 184 ± 5 cm; weight: 90 ± 9 kg) were recruited according to the inclusion criteria for this study. Data collection consisted of two parts, namely performing abduction in the biplane fluoroscopy system, and a CT scan of the shoulder. The motions were recorded simultaneously with a standard Motion Analysis System (MAS) using retro reflective markers to provide context for the analysis.

Over the course of arm elevation the scapular rotations showed certain characteristics. Medial rotation was found at an almost linear ratio throughout arm elevation, whereas scapular posterior tilt showed increasing values without linearity. Scapular protraction was found to have differences within two groups. The scapular adjusted through protraction with described motion patterns for the anterior or posterior plane of humeral arm elevation.

In general, this study provides the clinician and researcher with basic background information and more detailed data about the shoulder motion with the highest level of accuracy. It can be a useful tool and data for the clinician for clinical evaluation to look at potential pathologies and further research pre and post surgery can lead to evaluations, changed techniques and better outcome for the patients.

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USE OF SMALL ANIMAL MULTI-MODALITY IMAGING FOR IN VIVO ASSESSMENT OF TENDON-TO-BONE HEALING

Michael Schär, Richard Ma, Marco Sisto, Marco Demange, Tina Chen, Lily Ying, Xiang-Hua Deng, Scott Rodeo, Rodeo Hospital for Special Surgery, New York City

Introduction: Bone formation at the tendon-bone interface is essential for healing; however, the limited availability of a non-invasive means to evaluate healing in vivo impedes a more refined analysis. Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a minimally invasive imaging modality. 18F-Fluoride is a bone-seeking agent that reflects bone turnover. The aim of this study was to evaluate the use of micro PET/computed tomography (CT) to serially characterize and quantify ACL graft healing in vivo, using an established rat reconstruction model.

We hypothesized that serial µPET/CT scans would be feasible and safe, and that this method would capture differences in bone turnover along the graft tunnels.

Methods: Six male Sprague-Dawley rats underwent ACL reconstruction using a flexor digitorum longus autograft. An external fixator was placed across the knee. The rats were assigned to immobilization (N = 3) or daily loading (N = 3, daily 50 cycles of ROM from 0-90°) groups. The animals were scanned using µPET/CT scans (spatial resolution 1.4 mm) and 18F-fluoride as a tracer at 7, 14, 21 and 28d after ACL reconstruction. Each bone tunnel and the surrounding bone were divided into 3 equal regions of interest (ROI) along each tunnel (intraarticular aperture (IAA), midtunnel (MT), and extraarticular aperture (EAA)). Standard uptake values (SUV) were calculated for each ROI. All rats were euthanized at 28d and ex vivo high-resolution µCT analysis was performed on all ACL tunnels.

Results: The µPET/CT imaging provided quantifiable evidence of bone turnover in and around the bone tunnels over time. On the tibial side, there was a gradient in SUV, with most bone turnover at the IAA and least at EAA in both groups. The same pattern was observed for the immobilized group on the femoral side at 14, 21 and 28d after ACL reconstruction. Each bone tunnel and the surrounding bone were divided into 3 equal regions of interest (ROI) along each tunnel (intraarticular aperture (IAA), midtunnel (MT), and extraarticular aperture (EAA)). Standard uptake values (SUV) were calculated for each ROI. All rats were euthanized at 28d and ex vivo high-resolution µCT analysis was performed on all ACL tunnels.

Discussion: Considering the current lack of knowledge of the tendon-bone healing process due to the limited availability of in vivo studies, our data highlights the feasibility and potential of repetitive µPET/CT scanning to provide further insight into the healing process and to directly measure the effect of interventional strategies in tendon-bone healing.
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