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Ilizarov External Fixator Versus Orthofix LRS in Management of Femoral Osteomyelitis: A Propensity Score Matched Analysis

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Abstract

Purpose: Treatment of osteomyelitis (OM) is challenging. Ilizarov bone transport is a commonly used technique for management of OM. The recently introduced limb reconstruction system (LRS) has been effectively used for management of OM. It was suggested to be easier in use and less invasive. The present retrospective study aimed to compare LRS and Ilizarov bone transport in management of femoral OM using a propensity score matched analysis. Methods: The present retrospective study included 80 consecutive patients with femoral OM. The studied patients were managed either using Ilizarov external fixator (n = 40) or Orthofix LRS (n = 40). The clinical outcome measurements included union time, limb length discrepancy, additional operative procedures, refracture and infection. Results: Patients in the LRS group were exposed to significantly higher frequency of bone transport (30.0 versus 15.0%) and lower frequency of acute compression and lengthening (10.0 versus 32.5%). Patients in Ilizarov group had significantly higher frequency of tobramycin pellets as compared to their counterparts. The studied groups were comparable regarding the operative complications including pintract infection, non-union at docking site and refracture. Patients in the Ilizarov had significantly shorter time to union (8.2 \pm 3.2 versus 11.0 \pm 5.6 months, p = 0.012). No statistically significant differences were found between the studied groups regarding the quality-of-life domains. Conclusions: Use of Ilizarov external fixator and Orthofix LRS devices proved to be effective and reliable. Their influences on patients' quality appear to be comparable. © Indian Orthopaedics Association 2024.

Author Keywords

Femoral osteomyelitis; Ilizarov external fixator; Limb reconstruction system; Orthofix

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