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***Treatment of acetabular injuries and the consequences (review of literature)*****O.K. Chegurov, I.N. Menshchikov**

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Acetabular fractures are often complex injuries and the result of high-energy trauma increasing in recent years with the increased use of high-speed motor vehicles. Acetabular fractures account for 7 to 25 % of all pelvic injuries and are associated with significant morbidity. The complex nature of these fractures requires multi-staged treatment with the usage of various methods of osteosynthesis, their combination including primary reconstructive joint replacement. In spite of the improved techniques and new technologies rehabilitation of the patients is a particularly challenging problem. **Material and methods** Literature searches were performed on several databases: PubMed, Scopus, eLibrary.ru and others. Search keywords included “acetabular injury”, “consequences of acetabular fracture”, “acetabular osteosynthesis”, “total hip replacement”, “nonunion of acetabulum”, “hip arthroplasty in patients with consequences of acetabular injury”. **Objective** To do analytical review on the subject “Treatment of consequences of acetabular injuries”. **Conclusion** Types of acetabular injuries and methods of treatment are described in the available literature. Nevertheless, the findings showed no systemic approach to rehabilitation of the patients and there is a need to improve the existing practice and devise new techniques and algorithms of treatment

**Keywords:** hip joint, acetabulum, injury, consequences of acetabular fracture, osteosynthesis of acetabulum, total hip replacement

Acetabular fractures are most frequently associated with high energy trauma such as that seen in a motor vehicle accident or a fall from a height and account for 7 to 25 % of all pelvic injuries according to different authors [1, 2]. Acetabular fractures are becoming an increasingly common orthopaedic injury in recent years with the increased use of high-speed motor vehicles [3]. Motor vehicle crashes are the most common cause of acetabular fracture with a reported incidence of 40 and 76 % [4–6]. The incidence of acetabular fractures resulting from a fall from a height is 11 % [7]. Fractures of the acetabulum are mostly seen in individuals of active working age, primarily in males, that indicate to socio-economic importance of the issue [8, 9]. Injuries of the acetabulum and the sequelae have a negative impact on the quality of life and often result in disability [10–12]. In many different ways the condition impacts the ability to do work-related activities in 50 to 70 % of the cases, and the physical disability qualifies 12 to 15 % of the patients for social security benefits [13]. Shlykov I.L. et al. (2011) and Boraiah S et al. (2009) report 65 to 80 % rate of

poor outcome in pelvic injuries that result in high mortality rate, residual deformities and disability [14, 15]. There is an increasing proportion of acetabular fractures sustained as a result of polytrauma accompanied by traumatic shock [16].

Various schemes based on anatomical, clinical and radiological principles have been suggested to classify acetabular fractures [17], the Judet-Letournel classification system (AO) [18] remains the most widely accepted and classifies as elementary and associated fracture patterns and localisation of injury. Classification proposed by M. Tile allows us to look at the potential areas of pelvic ring disruptions and instability [19]. Classifications suggested by AAOS, Paprosky, Saleh give detailed information about defects of the acetabulum [20–22], the dimensions and localisation. Paprosky classification is often used for rehabilitation of orthopaedic patients evaluating the extent of bone loss that is important for surgical strategy. The variety of existing classifications of acetabular injuries provides a differentiated approach to diagnosis and the choice of treatment tactics that would sup-

posedly lead to positive outcome. However, no most common referenced classification system for sequelae of acetabular fractures could be found in the literature reviewed.

Although accurate characterisation of acetabular fractures can be difficult because of the complex acetabular anatomy radiographic examination, CT and MRI provide essential information for acetabular classification [23–25].

Considering the course of reparative process sequelae of acetabular fractures can be grouped into maluniting and malunited fractures of the acetabulum. Nonunion is a major complication that can lead to disability in some cases [26, 27]. There are no statistical data available to estimate acetabular nonunion incidence. There is evidence of increasing number of the patients that is associated with high levels of anesthesiological procedures and intensive care [28]. The overall aim of early posttraumatic period is to rapidly assess and treat life-threatening conditions [11, 29]. Pelvic fracture stabilisation is a part of antishock therapy that can be achieved either conservatively or surgically using transosseous osteosynthesis. However, the methods are inefficient for accurate anatomical reduction of acetabular injuries, fracture-dislocation of the acetabulum and old injuries [28, 30]. Imperfect reduction resulting in incongruency of more than 1 to 2 mm and persisting subluxation is evaluated as a poor outcome [31–34]. Malunited fractures can lead to degenerative changes, expressed pain and poor functional result due to impaired biomechanics in the hip joint. Patients with malunited injury can develop posttraumatic neuropathy sciatic nerve [35].

Disturbed flows in the arterial and venous systems of the involved segment can cause oxygen deficiency and impaired regeneration. Medical treatment untimely performed, poor result of reduction and fixation are iatrogenic factors contributing to nonunion. Nonunion typically occur in displaced fracture and dislocated femoral head [36, 37]. Osteosynthesis with plates and screws is applied for bone reduction and fixation in patients with disturbed fracture healing, and osteotomy can be indicated for realignment in some cases. Autografts are used to repair bone defects. Less invasive osteosynthesis can be performed for patients without neuropathy of sciatic nerve, signs of poste-

rior instability of the femoral head and intraarticular fragments with the possibility of bringing the bone into direct contact. Total hip replacement can be an option in patients with previously failed procedures [38].

Musculoskeletal injury can induce reparative processes being manifested in heterotopic ossification in the pelvic soft tissues seen in 25.6 % of the cases [39]. Elfimova S.V. et al. (2010) identified a higher risk of heterotopic ossification observed in combination of such factors as male gender and posttraumatic coxarthrosis, injury to the hip joint followed by posttraumatic coxarthrosis, with the reported rate of 34 % and 33.3 %, correspondingly [40]. Heterotopic ossifications can be caused by traumatic operative interventions including THR and coxarthrosis at the time of injury [41, 42]. Common presenting symptoms of heterotopic ossification are pain and limited joint movement including ankylosis [43, 44]. Commonly used prophylactic modalities include non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, radiation and combination therapy [45–47].

Clinically evident progressive degeneration [32] is observed in 57 to 88 % of the cases [39] at long-term follow-up in spite of adequate treatment performed. The process is influenced by several factors including specific trauma agent and medical care rendered.

Failure to produce accurate reduction and reliable fixation within the first week of acetabular fracture is an adverse prognostic factor that entails technical difficulties for the next procedure and aggravates a surgical injury [35, 48]. A fracture of more than 21 day of injury is categorised as delayed. Anatomical bone reduction is either difficult or impossible in the cases [49]. Delayed management of acetabular fractures increases the difficulty of operative treatment and may result in a significant reduction in good outcomes [37].

Displaced acetabular fracture with a bone defect of the acetabulum is a key reason to degenerative changes. Acetabular bone loss is likely to result in femur dislocation, bone areas of lower density being sheared off at contact sites due to disturbed congruency of articular surfaces [50, 51].

Acetabular fractures are accompanied by dislocated femoral head in 15 to 80 % of the cases [52, 53]. The femoral head is at high risk of developing

aseptic necrosis of no reduction is produced within 6 to 12 hours of injury due to disturbed trophics of all articular and periarticular components [54, 55]. The pathological process with degenerative changes is caused by vascular disorders resulted from injury and continuous absence of normal loading. There is a relationship established between an extent of functional and structural changes and regional circulation [56]. Disturbed circulation as the major reason of avascular necrosis of the femoral head is identified in 10 % of the cases [39, 57]. Avascular necrosis of the femoral head leads to progressive degenerative joint disease and a higher reported incidence of musculoskeletal disability [58, 59]. Joint preserving surgeries include different osteotomies, vascularised and non-vascularised grafts, femoral head core decompression but the outcomes with the procedures are not always rewarding [60]. Arthroplasty is the method of choice when results with established surgical procedures are inconsistent and disappointing [61].

The biggest long-term complication of acetabular fracture is the development of coxarthrosis seen in 20 % of the cases [39]. The most common symptoms of hip osteoarthritis are hip pain, decreased range of motion, supportability of lower limb and disturbed functioning of the whole locomotor system. If conservative treatments do not

succeed following fracture reduction and fixation and hip pain seriously impinges on lifestyle primary total hip replacement may provide relief [62]. Earlier osteosynthesis of the acetabulum creates good conditions for femoral component implantation [4, 63], however, significant anatomical distortion and adhesions from previous surgeries may pose the challenge to the surgeon [64]. There is a greater uncertainty with surgical result in the cases as compared to arthroplasty performed for non-traumatic condition [5, 65]. Management of acetabular bone loss at the time of the surgery is a challenge facing orthopedic surgeons [66]. Stable fixation in smaller areas of bone deficiency can be achieved either by using greater diameter of the cup and screws or more superior placement. The bone chips obtained with acetabular treatment can be used for bone autologous graft [67, 68]. Larger areas of bone loss can be filled with bone graft harvested from the femur. Trabecular metal implant can be successfully used for better osteoinduction [67]. Antiprolusion devices supporting lateral acetabulum can be applied in larger bone defects. Seven-to-ten follow-ups show 80 to 90 % of good outcomes [69].

Therefore, reconstructive hip arthroplasty can provide supportability of the limb, sufficient range of motion in the hip joint and pain relief.

## CONCLUSION

Our review of literature suggests that sequelae of acetabular fractures are quite challenging injuries for the orthopedic surgeon. Multiple factors influence the occurrence and severity of the conditions. A variety of techniques offered to repair fractures of the acetabulum include conservative, joint preserving surgeries and total hip arthroplasty. Nevertheless, the findings indicate the absence of systemic approach to rehabilitation of the

patients, and the treatments are primarily syndrome-based. It can also be explained by the absence of integrated classification specifying sequelae of acetabular injuries. There are no statistical data on a number of consequences of acetabular fractures. Therefore, accumulation, processing and classification of statistical evidence can be helpful in developing systemic and comprehensive approach to the problem.

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