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EARLY SURGICAL SITE INFECTION FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF THE SYNDESMOTIC SCREW IN ANKLE FRACTURES

Marko Spasov¹, Simon Trpeski², Oliver Arsovski³, Igor Kaftandziev⁴

1 University Clinic of Traumatology - Medical faculty of Skopje

2 University Clinic of Traumatology - Medical faculty of Skopje

3 University Clinic of Traumatology - Medical faculty of Skopje

4 University Clinic of Traumatology - Medical faculty of Skopje

AIM

Ankle fracture is the most common injury of the lower extremity which is often accompanied by a disruption of the distal tibio-fibular syndesmosis. The disruption of the distal tibio-fibular syndesmosis is retained by one or two tri/quadr cortical positioning screws. In the last decade, routine removal of the positioning screw has become debatable. The aim of this study is to examine the incidence of surgical site infection following positioning screw removal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This prospective study was conducted on 114 patients that had undergone positioning screw removal. No antibiotic prophylaxis was given during this procedure. The patients' follow-up was one week, two weeks, one month and three months following surgery. The occurrence of an infection was statistically examined in correlation with the sex, age, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, smoking and the ASA score. The significance was tested with the SPSS Software.

RESULTS

Surgical site infection following positioning screw removal was registered in 8 patients (7%). Five of them had *S. aureus* isolated from their surgical wound, one had *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and another one *Enterococcus faecalis*. One patient had a negative microbiological finding. One patient needed hospitalization, parenteral antibiotic therapy and a surgical treatment of the wound. Statistically significant risk factors were: diabetes (Pearson Chi-square:6.23, df=1, p=0.01), BMI (tvalue-4.77, df=112, p)