



“THE TREATMENT OF PENETRATING PERIFERAL ARTERIAL INJURIES” DURING 2002- 2003

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Aim of the study: To clarify the importance of early diagnosis and arterial reconstruction after a penetrating arterial injury of the extremities.

We treated 25 patients with penetrating arterial injuries, 23 males and 2 females.
The mean age 31 years old ranging from 13 to 49 years.

The most common cause of injury was gun shot injury, followed by stab wound and jatrogenic injury.

13 patients had combined injuries:

- * 7 cases arterial and venous
- * 2 arterial and bone fracture
- * 1 arterial, venous and bone fracture
- * 1 arterial and nerve
- * 1 arterial, venous and nerve
- * 1 arterial and hemopneumothorax



In 9 patients was performed arterial bypass with autovein graft in 7 and Dacron prosthetic graft in 2.

In 2 cases we performed end to end anastomosis.

Simple suture of the damaged artery was done in one case.

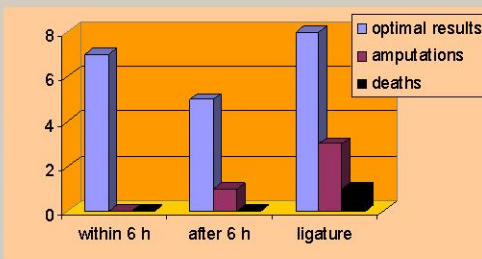
Trombectomy and stenting of the artery in one case.

In 12 cases only ligation of the damaged artery was performed.

RESULTS

We had the best results in 7 patients where reconstructive surgery was performed, in the first 6 hours after trauma. No amputation, need for necrectomy or decompressive fasciotomy was evidenced in these patients.

In 6 patients with reconstructive surgery was done after 6 hours we had one amputation (16,6%). The other (5 patients) needed either local necrectomy or decompressive crural fasciotomy.



In the patients where we performed ligation of the artery 3 (25%) had amputations in different levels. One patient died from pulmonary embolism.

In total:
20 patients (80%) had optimal outcome,
4 amputations (16%)
and 1 death (4%).

Conclusion: Reconstructive surgery, especially within the first 6 hours after trauma gives the best results.

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