

Diagnosis and Treatment of Limb Fractures Associated with Acute Peripheral Ischemia

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Abstract

Acute Peripheral Ischemia (API) is the most severe acute complication after both open and closed fractures, as ischemia compromises not only the vitality of the affected limb, but also the patient's life, because metabolic anaerobic changes following ischemia have serious local and general consequences. These explain why early diagnosis of API is very important for the prognosis of the traumatized limb. The authors analyse cases when API was not diagnosed immediately after trauma, but some time after the first examination, due to either low systolic BP or to late onset of API. The patients were analysed concerning the type of the fracture, the reason for delayed diagnosis of API, the moment of API diagnosis and the arterial injury. In all those cases, surgery was performed immediately after API diagnosis, in order to identify and treat the complex injuries (bone and vascular).

Key words: limbs, fractures, acute peripheral ischemia, thrombosis

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