

Relevance Of Timing Of Operation On Infection Rate In Compound Fractures

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INTRODUCTION:

Infection is the major problem associated with open fractures. It has been the dictum that emergency debridement of compound fractures should be done within a period of 6 hours from injury, to prevent infection. This is seldom achievable in Indian set-up because of delayed presentation and even after arrival to the hospital. However, it has been seen that open fractures managed even after 6 hours of injury fare well and there are no definite guidelines to define the safe period of debridement.

AIM:

To determine the relevance of timing of operation / debridement, on infection rate in compound fractures, particularly if surgery was performed after 6 hours.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

we conducted a prospective study from January 2013 to November 2015. A total number of 130 patients (110 males, 20 females) with compound fractures were included in our study.

RESULTS:

Surgical treatment could be carried out in 16 patients within six hours of injury (group A), 54 patients in 6-12 hours after injury (group B), 42 patients in 12- 24 hours after injury (group C) and 18 patients were operated after 24 hours but within 72 hours (group D). Infection rates noted were 32 % in group A, 19 % in group B, 10 % in group C and 39 % in group D respectively.

CONCLUSION:

We concluded that there was no increase in infection rates when surgery was performed up to 24 hours after injury and surgery can be delayed up to 24 hours if optimal operating environment is not available.

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