

Study of Functional Outcome in Patients With Age Less Than 50 Years With Neck Of Femur Fracture Treated With 6.5mm Cannulated Cancellous Screws.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Intracapsular neck of femur is a severe traumatic condition that accounts for more than half of all hip fractures, which primarily occur in the elderly after falls. IC#NOF have presented significant challenges to orthopaedic surgeons and a bid to be an unsolved fracture in terms of treatment and outcomes. Our society is becoming more geriatric as life expectancy rises with each decade, with a significant increase in the figures of hospitalised & nursing home patients with IC#NOFs and their sequelae.

In 1990, Asia accounted for 26% of all hip fractures, but this figure is likely to rise to 37% in 2025 and 45% in 2050. We accomplish that the socioeconomic impact of hip fractures will increase significantly throughout the world, particularly in Asia, and those preventive strategies, particularly in developing countries, are urgently needed.¹

IC#NOF are common in the elderly after a minor fall. #NOF in adults below the age of 50 are uncommon and frequently the result of high-energy trauma. To evaluate and treat #NOFs, it is critical to understand and contrast the differences between elderly and young adult patients. Differences in osseous and vascular anatomy, mechanism of injury, associated injuries, fracture pattern, and treatment goals are observed.

Young adult #NOFs are associated with an increased risk of femoral head AVN and nonunion. In young patients following a #NOF, the rate of avascular necrosis reported in the literature ranges from 12-86 percent. This dreadful complication may result in collapse of femoral head and subsequent osteoarthritis. Reoperation and salvage procedures, such as osteotomy, have a high failure rate, and arthroplasty procedures are not ideal in young age.

The surgical management consists of fracture reduction and stabilisation, which allows for early patient

mobilisation and reduces many of the demerits associated with bed rest for prolonged period. There are several options for stabilising # NOFs. Cannulated cancellous screws fixation or a dynamic hip screw, hemiarthroplasty, and THR are all possible options.²

The aim of this study is to assess the treatment of an IC # NOF with multiple cannulated cancellous lag screws. Cases selected for this surgery are between the ages of 15 and 50 and had a # NOF and were admitted and treated at Kurnool Medical College and Hospital in Kurnool, A.P., between October 2019 and October 2021.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present work on "STUDY OF FUNCTIONAL OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH AGE LESS THAN 50 YEARS WITH NECK OF FEMUR FRACTURE TREATED WITH 6.5mm CANNULATED CANCELLOUS SCREWS." is carried out in the Orthopaedics department, Kurnool Medical College and Hospital during October 2019 to October 2022. All the cases were evaluated preoperatively to classify the fracture type using "Garden's Classification" and were prepared for surgery. The Leadbetter technique was used to reduce the fractures. 20 adult cases of IC # NOF were managed with 2 or 3 partially threaded 6.5 mm cannulated cancellous screws after accurate reduction and rigid internal fixation under X-ray control.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age below 50 years irrespective of gender
- Fresh IC # NOF without comminution

Exclusion Criteria:

- Pre-existing lesions of the hip such as avascular necrosis of the femoral head and degenerative arthritis.
- Old nonunion & mal-union IC # NOF
- Pre-existing neurological disorders.

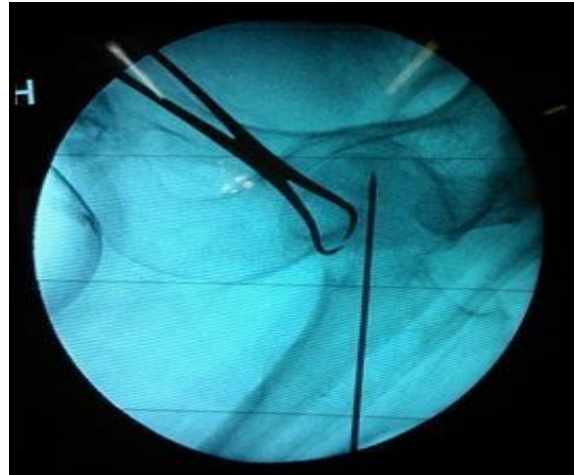
Surgical Procedure:

All the patients were operated under spinal anaesthesia. The patient was placed on the fracture table and the fracture was reduced under Cram machine.

Technique:

Following the reduction, a longitudinal incision was made across the lateral surface of the greater trochanter. Guide pins are inserted through the fracture from the lateral cortex, parallel to the neck, and at a 135° angle. Place one guide pin at a 135° angle adjacent to the medial cortex. Two guide pins, one anterior and one posterior, are placed in the middle of the head and driven to within 5mm of subchondral bone. Under fluoroscopy guidance, the guide pins should be measured to determine the correct screw length. After confirming the position of the guidewires in the neck, drill and tap over the guidewires with a cannulated drill bit and a cannulated tap, respectively. The cannulated screw driver was used to insert cannulated cancellous lag screws over the guidewires. Under fluoroscopic guidance, adequate fixation is confirmed.

The screws should be no more than 5mm from the subchondral bone. Washers were used as needed to keep the screw head from shrinking and to achieve uniform compression at the site of fracture. The guidewire must be removed after each screw has been tightened. Drill, tap, and insert each screw before moving on to the next to avoid loss of reduction. It is necessary to achieve hemostasis. Over the suction drain, the wound was closed in layer.



Guidewireinsertion

PostoperativeManagement:

The patient is kept supine, with a pillow under the knee. I.V antibiotics were given for 5 days, oral antibiotics for 5 days, and analgesics for a week. On the first postoperative day, all patients were mobilised in bed with quadriceps and hamstring exercises, as well as ankle movements. On the second POD, patients were instructed to sit with one leg hanging down from the edge of the bed. Non-weight bearing crutch walking was advised on the third POD.

Follow up:

Patients were evaluated radiologically and functionally at 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months. After definite radiological evidence of union, full weight bearing is permitted

Harris hip scoring system³ (HHS):

Functional outcomes were evaluated based on HHS system as follows

- Poor: HHS < 70.
- Fair: HHS 70-79.
- Good: HHS 80-89.
- Excellent: HHS 90-100.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The following observations were made based on data collected between October 2019 and October 2021 in the Orthopaedics department at Government General Hospital, Kurnool during a study of IC# NOFs in patients below age of 50 fixed by using A.O. Cannulated Cancellous Screws.

Incidence by age and gender:

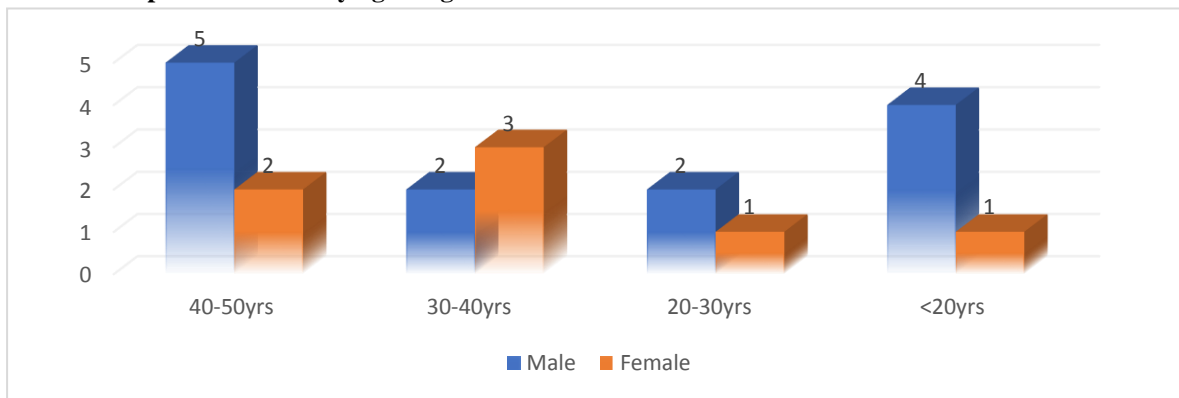
The maximum age in our study was 50 years for men and 50 years for females. The majority of the cases were among the ages of 30 and 50, with an average age of 30.15 for males and 34.28 for females. There were 13 male patients and 7 female patients, indicating a male predominance over females. Right hip was more affected than left side in our study. Most common mode of injury is slip and fall on flat ground followed by RTA.

Table 1: Sample distribution by age and gender

Age/Sex	Male	Female	Total
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40-50years	5(71.4%)	2(28.6%)	7(35%)
30-40years	2(40%)	3(60%)	5(25%)
20-30years	2(66.6%)	1(33.3%)	3(15%)
<20years	4(80%)	1(20%)	5(25%)
Total	13(65%)	7(35%)	20(100%)

Chart1:Sampledistribution by ageandgender.



Type of Fracture:

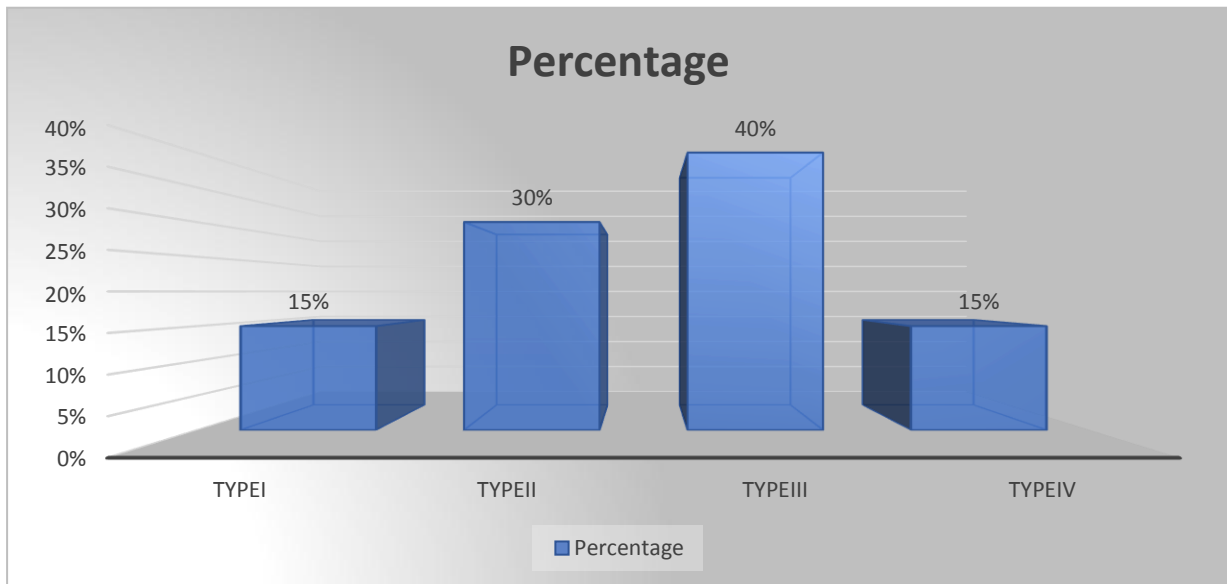
On radiographic examination, 8 (40%) cases were Garden type III. There were six cases with type II fractures, three with type I fractures, and three with type IV fractures.

Table3:Sampledistribution based on Fracture Type

Garden's type	Frequency	Percentage
I	3	15%
II	6	30%
III	8	40%
IV	3	15%
Total	20	100%

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Displaced	11	55%
Undisplaced	9	45%

Chart3:Sampledistribution based on Fracture Type



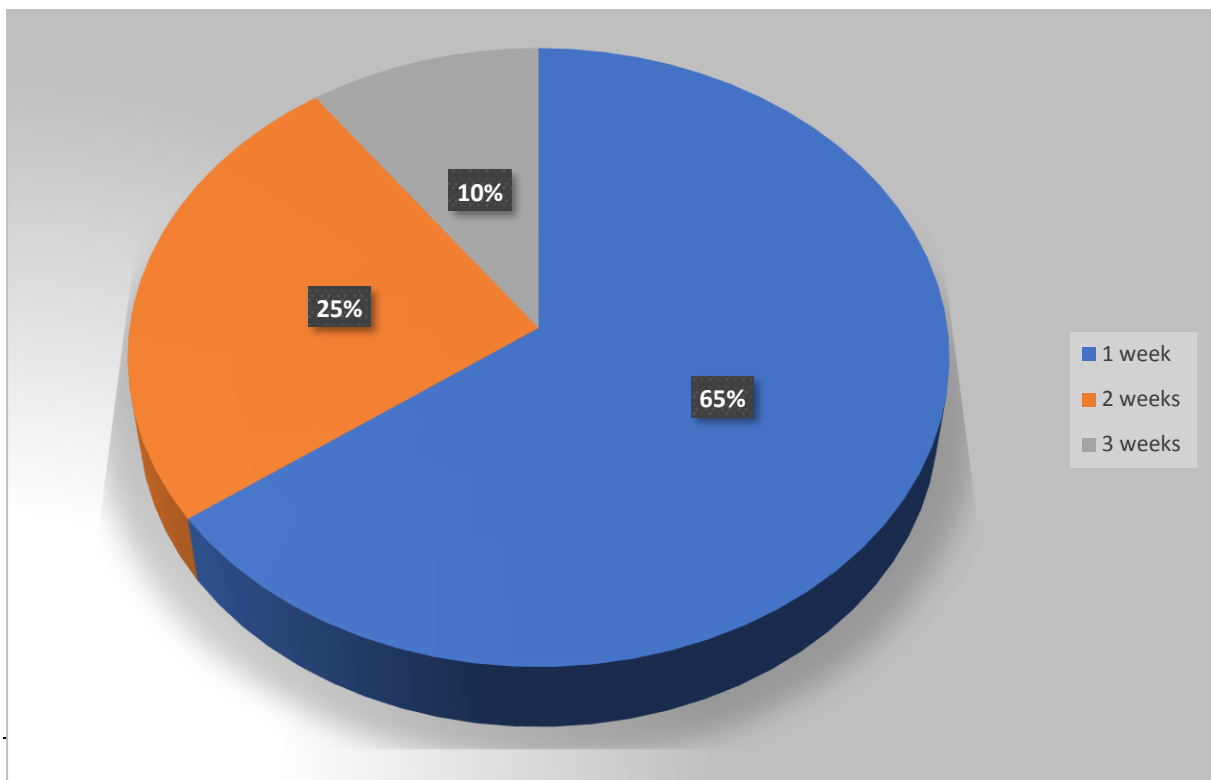
Time from initial trauma to surgery:

Within two weeks, 90 percent (18) of patients had surgery. Because of associated medical conditions and delayed presentation to the hospital, the remaining patients had longer preoperative hospital stays. They were operated on after appropriate medications were used to treat and control the associated medical disorders.

Table 6: Sample distribution based on time of operation

Time of surgery from initial trauma	No. patients	Percentage
1 week	13	65%
2 weeks	5	25%
3 weeks	2	10%

Chart 6: Sample distribution based on time of operation



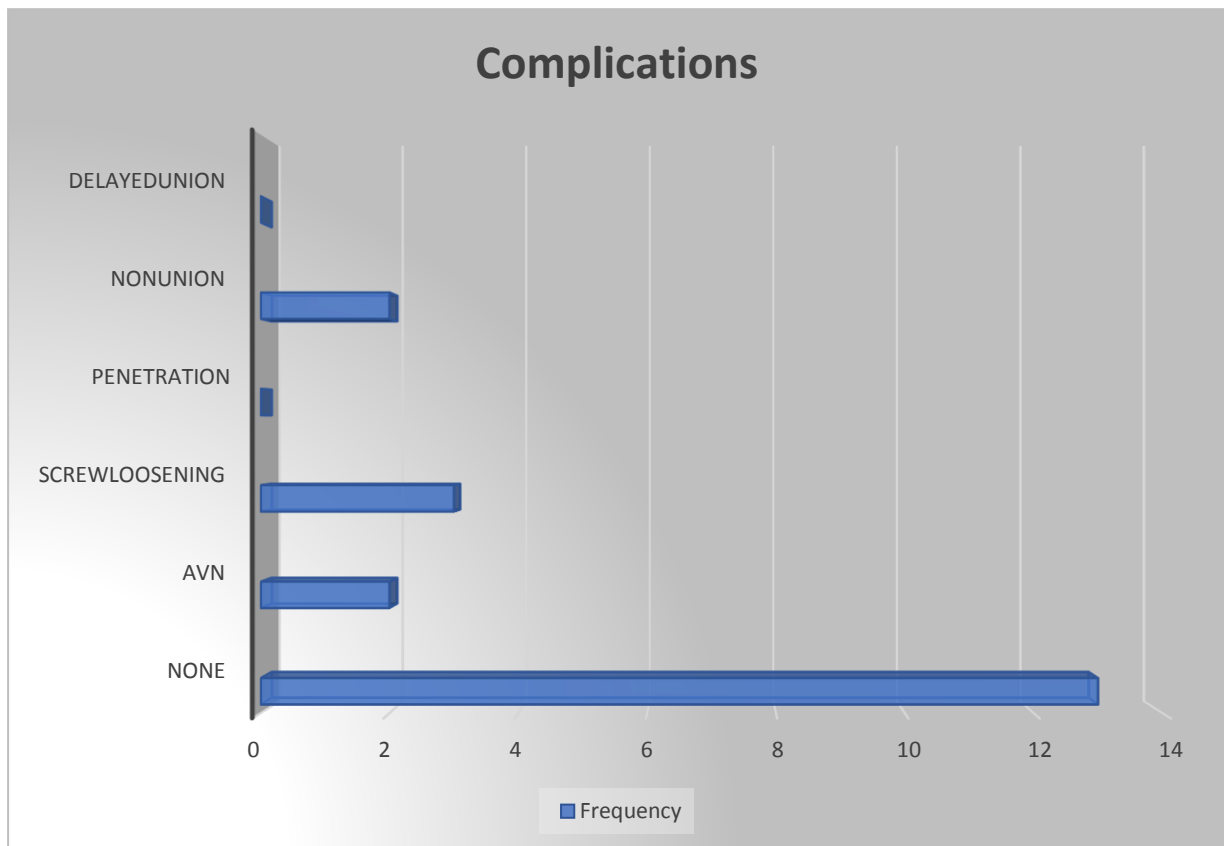
Complications:

The majority of the cases had no complications; two had AVN, three had screw loosening, and two had nonunion.

Table 7: Sample Distribution Based on Complications

Complication	Frequency	Percent
None	13	65%
AVN	2	10%
Screw loosening	3	15%
Screw penetration	0	0
Nonunion	2	10%
Delayed union	0	0
Total	20	100.0

Chart 7: Sample Distribution Based on Complications



Functional Assessment:

Cases were followed up on after 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months. The HHS system was used to assess the functional outcomes of internal fixation with A.O. cannulated cancellous screws. The following domains are used for evaluation.

Total Functional Outcome:

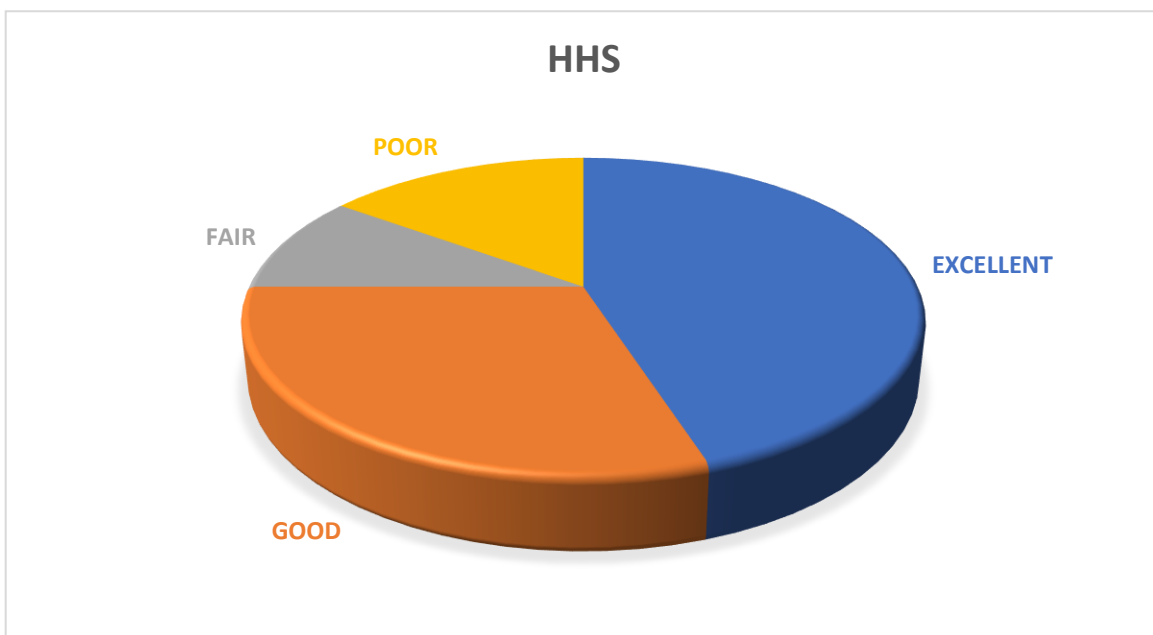
The functional assessment was classified as excellent, good, fair, or poor after combining the scores given for each functional valuation criterion. The entire HHS at six months in our study ranged from 31.85 to 99.80. Nine (45 percent) of the cases had hip scores ranging from 90 to 100. (excellent). Six (30%) had hip scores ranging from 80 to 89. (good). Two (10%) received a score of 70 to 79 (Fair), and three (15%) received a score of less than 69. (poor). Thus, 85 % cases had a satisfactory to excellent outcome, while 15 percent had a poor outcome. The

following table summarises the remarks made during the functional assessment.

Table 17: Sample distribution based on functional outcomes at the end of 6 months in terms of HHS.

HHS	Frequency	Percent	Results
<69	3	15%	Poor
70-79	2	10%	Fair
80-89	6	30%	Good
90-100	9	45%	Excellent
Total	20	100%	-

Chart 17: Sample distribution based on functional outcomes at the end of 6 months in terms of HHS.



Radiographic Results:

The radiological observations in our study are shown in the table below.

Table 18: Distribution of cases based on radiographic union at the end of 6 months

Months for signs of union	Frequency	Percent
Three months	13	65%
Four months	3	15%
Six months	2	10%
Nonunion	2	10%
Total	20	100%

Chart 18: Distribution of cases based on radiographic union at the end of 6 months

DISCUSSION

NOFs are growing at a geometrical rate due to the general population's longevity. It's a common among aged people with osteoporosis. It's very common among postmenopausal women. Although it is unusual in both paediatric and young adults, it is frequently the outcome of high-energy trauma in this age group. In older people with already compromised bones, even slight stress might result in a fracture. A fragility fracture is another name for a #NOF.

An orthopaedic surgeon still faces a huge and tough problem in managing a #NOF. With a variety of supplemental treatments ranging from osteosynthesis to THR, the pendulum is swinging between reduction and internal fixation.

In Western countries, such situations are treated with total hip arthroplasty because of style and religious constraints. Squatting or sitting cross-legged is preferred in our country. Aside from the financial implications, total hip replacement does not allow for the requisite range of motion. As a result, it is critical to protect the original hip joint at all costs.

In this light, we did this research to assess the immediate results of fixation in the femur fracture neck by utilising 6.5mm A.O. Cannulated Cancellous Screws while keeping in mind the living conditions of the average Indian.

Distribution of Age:

Males had a maximum age of 50 years and females had a maximum age of 50 years in our study. The bulk of the cases were among the ages of 35 and 50, with males on average 30.15 years old and females on average 34.28 years old.

Other writers describe the following age distributions: Mukherjee and Puri³¹(1986) 65 years; and Arwade³²(1987) 54-86 years with an incidence of 70-80 years (Average 72 years). Saxena and Saraf³³(1978) showed a 75-year age distribution of 45-90 years (Mean 66 years). According to Bavadekar and Manelkar³⁴(1987), the mean age of new fractures was 75 years, whereas the mean age of old fractures was 62 years.

Incidence of sex:

Males were more likely than females to suffer a IC # NOF in our study, and we discovered a alteration in the mode of injury between men and women, with men suffering fractures from falls from great heights and RTA, whereas females suffered fractures from falls on the same level. Elderly females are more prone to #NOFs as a result of osteoporosis (Choudhari & Mohite³⁵1987).

According to some studies, women outweigh men. Moore³⁶(1957) received

62.5 percent, Campbell (1960) received 80.9 percent, Cone (1963) received 73.6 percent, Anderson & Neilson³⁷(1972) received 85 percent, Sikroski & Barrington³⁸(1981) received 66.7 percent, Arwade³²(1987) received 68.3 percent, and John E. Kenzora³⁹(1998) received 77.4 percent. Male predominance has been discovered

in several studies: Mukherjee and Puri³¹(1986): 58.3 percent; Amte & Sanchetti (1987): 55 percent; Bavadekar and Manelkar³⁴(1987): 55 percent; D'Acry and Devas⁴⁰(1976): 91.4 percent. In our study, females made approximately 35% of the patients.

Fracture Side:

A fractured right hip was found in 14 patients (70%) in our investigation. This is in line with the findings of Boyd and Salvatore⁴¹(1964), who found a 55 percent left-side fracture rate. D'Acry and Devas⁴⁰(1976) discovered that 55.4 percent of their patients' left hips were fractured.

Fracture Type:

The Garden categorization is used based on the available anteroposterior radiographic image. Garden type III fractures were found in the most of cases (40%) on radiographic evaluation. Garden type II fractures were present in six patients, while Garden type I fractures were present in three. Three patients were present to have garden type IV fractures. Type III and IV fractures were also classified as displaced fractures, accounting for 55 percent of all fractures.

Mechanism of Injury:

A fall from a height or from the same level resulted in a fracture in 85 percent of our cases. Severe trauma, such

as car accidents, caused the remaining fractures. The majority of studies - Gyepes (1962), Solomon (1968), Evarts⁴² (1973), Fielding⁴³ (1974), Ingallhalikar⁴⁴ (1987), Seth⁴⁵ (1987), and others - agree with this. IC # NOF, according to Stevens et al.⁴⁶ (1962), Scott and Gray (1980), Urovitz et al. (1977), Colonel M.K. Seth (1987), and others, are stress fractures induced by diseased bone caused by osteoporosis or osteomalacia.

Associated Medical Issues:

The most common issues in our study were gross anaemia, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus. One or more of the problems were encountered by 50% of our patients. Hinchey and Day⁴⁷ (1964) found that 84.6 percent of their patients had comparable issues, with the remaining having minor anaemia and mild HTN but normal health and being classified as nil.

Anaemia was a serious problem that was hardly addressed in Western literature. In western research, ischaemic heart disease is common, but not so much in ours. After a patient is admitted with a fractured femur neck, HTN and DM are usually discovered.

Hospitalization:

Preoperative hospitalisation lasted anywhere from 2 to 18 days in our study, with a mean of 8.23 days. The average hospital stay was 22.23 days since the postoperative stay was more or less stable at 14 days.

Stinchfield and Cooperman⁴⁸ (1957) reported 31.5 days hospital stay. A.A. Savastano et al.⁴⁹ (1958) reported a 38-day stay, Foster and Matchett (1965) reported a 28-day stay, Johnson and Crothers (1975) reported a 30-day stay, and

S. Delkel⁵⁰ (1976) reported a 21-day stay. We didn't perform surgery on any of the patients as an emergency, and they were all well-prepared prior to the procedure. Fifty percent of four cases took to surgery on the first available OT day within the first week of their hospitalisation. By the second week, half of the patients had internal fixation. Patients with diabetes, hypertension, and other medical issues were required to wait at least three weeks before undergoing surgery. Patients who did not have any operational or postoperative problems were discharged when the sutures were removed. By the second week, around 70% of our cases could be discharged. During the postoperative phase, patients with complications such as surgical wound infection, unmanageable medical problems, and so on were needed to stay in the hospital for an extended amount of time. All of the cases in our study were discharged within three weeks of surgery.

In comparison, a shorter hospital stay following surgery with CC screws has been observed in other research as a benefit that benefits patients' financial condition. We also noticed that many of our rural patients were unable to travel to the hospital in a timely manner.

Complications:

65% of cases did not have any complications. Complications such as AVN, nonunion, and screw loosening were documented in the remaining patients.

Femoral head avascular necrosis

In our research, we discovered two incidences of AVN. Vascular injury from the initial #NOF, inadequate reduction or fixation quality, and elevated intracapsular pressure are all explanations and risk factors for AVN. AVN was originally documented in 10–20 percent of undisplaced fractures and 15–

35 percent of displaced fractures by Plemister⁵¹. Ratliff found a 42 percent (30 of 70 cases) incidence, Allende-Lezama reported a 25% (2 of 8 instances), Carrel and Carrel reported a 35 percent (4 of 11 cases), Ingram and Bachinsky reported a 55 percent (13 of 24 cases), and McDougal reported a 58 percent (14 of 24 cases). KBL Lee⁵² found a 6% incidence, E.M. Toh⁵³ found an 11% incidence (11 of 100 cases), and Chen⁵⁴ et al. found a 67.57 percent incidence.

Revascularization of the femoral head is a lengthy procedure that can take up to two years and in rare cases much longer. **Nonunion:**

In our investigation, only two cases of nonunion (10 percent incidence) were documented, most likely due to incorrect implant location in which one of the screws' threads did not reach the fracture site. This is a far lower rate than that found in other studies.

Other complications include:

Three individuals in our research had screw loosening but no clinical difficulties, with the exclusion of one case in which one of the three screws was removed. No one has ever had a screw go through the joint cavity.

Functional Evaluation:

Pain:

In our research, we noticed that four patients (20%) were pain-free. On ambulation, 9 patients (45%) had minor pain, and 5 (25%) had mild pain that necessitated the use of NSAIDs. Two cases had severe pain. All cases in this study are of below 50 years, and following surgery, they looked to be more sensitive to pain. The bulk of this could be managed with mild analgesics or conservative measures, and daily activities were unaffected.

It agrees with Chen⁵⁴ et al findings, which found that practically all patients suffered pain within one month of having osteosynthesis with CC screws fixed.

Limp and cane use:

The majority of the cases in our study (65 percent) walked with a minor limp. In 10% of patients, the limp was moderate. It's mostly due to a shift in the abductor mechanism as a result of the neck becoming impinged during weight bearing.

In our study, 65 percent of patients did not require the use of a cane to walk, 20% used one for long treks, and 10% used one the majority of the time.

Total functional outcomes

The functional results of internal fixation were assessed using a number of criteria. In India, we are expected to sit cross-legged & squat without much difficulty. The patient's hip joint should have flexion, abduction, adduction, and external rotation, as well as full flexion at the knee joint, to do this.

The patient's ability to walk with or without assistance, as well as the range of hip motions, are the most critical elements in determining success in the western series. In contrast, the Indian series emphasised the ability to squat and sit cross-legged.

In our study, the final outcome at 6 months following surgery with CC screws were analysed using the HHS system. The main purpose of this management was to get them back to their pre-surgical state. At six months, 85 percent of cases had regained their pre-morbid ambulatory level, and 95 percent had experienced significant pain alleviation.

The large difference between functional and radiological findings is mostly attributable to pain and limp, which are both prominent norms in the HHS system, reducing the frequency of good and excellent results in this research. Despite the fact that pain and limp were existing in the majority of our cases, none of them were severe enough to necessitate a secondary surgical procedure beyond screw removal in the instance of screw loosening.

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The functional results of internal fixation were assessed using a number of criteria. In India, we are expected to sit cross-legged & squat without much difficulty. The patient's hip joint should have flexion, abduction, adduction, and external rotation, as well as full flexion at the knee joint, to do this.

The patient's ability to walk with or without assistance, as well as the range of hip motions, are the most critical elements in determining success in the western series. In contrast, the Indian series emphasised the ability to squat and sit cross-legged.

In our study, the final outcome at 6 months following surgery with CC screws were analysed using the HHS system. The main purpose of this management was to get them back to their pre-surgical state. At six months, 85 percent of cases had regained their pre-morbid ambulatory level, and 95 percent had experienced significant pain alleviation.

The large difference between functional and radiological findings is mostly attributable to pain and limp, which are both prominent norms in the HHS system, reducing the frequency of good and excellent results in this research. Despite the fact that pain and limp were existing in the majority of our cases, none of them were severe enough to necessitate a secondary surgical procedure beyond screw removal in the instance of screw loosening.

CONCLUSION

A review of literature on the IC # NOF was presented. Its relevant anatomy, traumatic principles, and biomechanical principles have all been reviewed.

Twenty cases of # NOFs treated with A.O. cannulated cancellous screws are presented by the authors. The results of further research are analysed and debated.

The patients were mostly in their 30s and 50s, with an average age of 30.15 for males and 34.28 for females. Its results are in line with those of other studies. Garden type III fractures were present in 40% of cases on radiographic evaluation. Patients having comminution of the neck's posterior cortex were excepted from the study.

The bulk of the patients (85%) suffered mild injuries; the majority of them slipped and fell on the same level or from considerable heights, rendering them unable to walk or stand. Anemia, diabetes, and hypertension were among the most common medical disorders connected with the study. To correct the fractures in all of the patients, we used a lateral approach and 6.5mm A.O. cannulated cancellous screws. Patients were advised to walk with limited weight bearing after six weeks. Within two weeks of surgery, the majority of the cases were discharged.

Twenty patients were followed up on to see how they were doing in terms of radiological union and functional outcomes. Internal fixation complications are substantially less common in our study than in other studies.

In our study, the total HHS ranged from 31.85 to 99.80 at the end of six months. Nine of the patients (45 percent) got hip scores of 90 to 100. (excellent). Six people (30%) received hip scores that ranged from 80 to 89. (good). Two (10%) had a rating of 70 to 79 (Fair), while three (15%) received a rating of less than 69. (poor). As a result, 85 percent of the hip had a satisfactory to exceptional result, whereas 15% of the cases had a poor result.

Minor to severe pain in the hip or thigh, as well as a limp, were the chief causes of poor results in our study, and they were more common in patients who had screw loosening. Despite the fact that these satisfactory findings were observed in our study, which is also corroborated by other studies, we did not emphasise the perfect parallel placement of screws or the quantity of screws in our study (E.M. Toh⁵³ et al. and K. Guruswamy et al.²⁸)

To obtain the optimal biomechanical conditions, internal fixation requires adequate preoperative planning and attention to surgical details.

Finally, osteosynthesis with CC screws results in a united fracture with a viable head of femur, which is always superior to a replacement and arthroplasty. Patients who have had their treatments fail can still get a THR or hemiarthroplasty, which has better results than initial hemiarthroplasty. In younger individuals, internal repair of IC# NOF is a possible alternative. The union rate is high, and the rate of mortality & morbidity are lower than for prosthesis replacement. The process is easy & inexpensive, the risks are minimal, and the early efficient outcomes are promising.

SUMMARY

Internal fixation with CC screws is a typical therapy for IC # NOF. Internal Fixation with CC screws in Young Adults is still a divisive topic, with proponents on both sides.

Internal Fixation with 6.5mm A.O. CC screws for 20 cases of femur fracture neck fractures. The functional outcomes were studied and discussed once they were followed upon.

The bulk of the cases were among the ages of 30 and 50, with males on average 30.15 years old and females on average 34.28 years old. Garden type III fractures were present in most of the cases (40%) on radiographic evaluation.

The majority of the fractures (85 percent) were induced by slight trauma. Hypertension, diabetes, and anaemia were the most common medical conditions. We followed a lateral approach with all of the patients. Patients advised to partial weight bearing after six weeks. Within two weeks of surgery, the majority of the cases were discharged. Twenty cases were followed up on to see if they had healed fracture radiologically and how they were doing functionally.

Nine cases (45 percent) got hip scores of 90 to 100 (excellent). Six people (30%) received hip scores that ranged from 80 to 89 (good). Two (10%) had a rating of 70 to 79 (Fair), while three (15%) received a rating of less than 69 (poor). As a result, 85 percent of the hip had a satisfactory to exceptional result, whereas 15% of the cases had a poor outcome. Poor outcomes following internal fixation were related to minor to moderate pain in the hip or thigh and a limp, and they were more common in patients who arrived late to the hospital and were connected with concomitant diseases. To obtain the optimal biomechanical conditions, internal fixation requires adequate preoperative planning and attention to surgical details.

Osteosynthesis with CC screws fixation gives the patient a united fracture with a viable head of femur, which is constantly preferable to a replacement, and it's done in a less invasive way than arthroplasty. The operational treatment is straightforward and inexpensive, complications are less debilitating, and early functional outcomes are good. The rate of mortality & morbidity is lower than those of prosthetic replacement, with high rates of union.

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