Ilizarov for legg-calve -perthes disease

Abstract
This study presents the results of prospective consecutive cohort of patient with Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease treated by Ilizarov technique between 1995 and 2014. The primary aim is to determine the maintenance of head coverage and joint congruity and functional outcomes of this Ilizarov technique. Methods: 26 patients with a mean follow up of 12 years (range 4 to 12) were included. Results: Cumulative maintenance of head coverage and joint congruity rate for all was (95%) at 12 years. Conclusion: Articulated hinge distraction in LCPD gives satisfactory and reproducible long term clinical results.

Keywords: Legg-Calvé-Perthes, Ilizarov, Radiographic results, Arthrosis, Hip rotation

Introduction
The aim of treatment of LCPD disease is to prevent cox arthrosis. Several treatment options have been described in order to prevent or limit femoral head deformation by containing the head within the acetabulum. Variation osteotomy of the femur, saltar osteotomy sometimes resulted in a prolonged limb or inadequate containment. Ilizarov distraction technique is now well documented. The primary aim and objective of this study were to determine the long term radiographic results and functional outcomes.

Physical examination
9-years-old child demonstrating limitation of internal rotation of right hip. Hip rotation best assessed in prone position because any restriction can be detected and measured easily (Figure 1).

Trendelenburg test. Boy at left, standing on left leg, demonstrates negative test of right hip. At right, same boy demonstrates positive Trendelenburg test of involved right hip. Left side of pelvis drops; pelvis cannot be maintained level by left gluteus medius because of pain originating in hip joint. Trunk shifts right as patient attempts to decrease biomechanical stresses across involved hip and thereby maintain balance (Figure 2).

Same child demonstrating Thomas test for hip flexion contracture. Opposite hip flexed only until lumbar spine is flat against examining table. Lack of full extension in involved hip recorded. Child demonstrates 15° hip flexion contracture typically found in Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease.

“Roll” test for muscle spasm. Patient relaxed, lying supine on table. Examiner places hands on right limb, gently rolls hip into internal and external rotation, noting resistance (Figure 3).

Test for limitation of abduction. With child supine on table and relaxed, lower limbs gently and passively abducted to determine degree of motion of each limb (Figure 4).

Determination of proximal thigh atrophy. Circumference of each upper thigh measured and difference noted. Measurements should be made at most proximal level of thigh (Figure 5).

Methods
We treated 26 patients between 1995 and 2014. The indications for Ilizarov distraction technique includes: 1) 6 to 12 years of age at clinical onset 4. 2) Catterall III and IV and Herring lateral pillar group B and C, 3) Subluxation on the anteroposterior radiographs.

The surgery is performed under general anaesthesia. The child is installed in the three quarter supine position, and the position is maintained by a sheet rolled against the child’s back. The intervention begins with introducing the schanz (5.5 mm) through the supraacetabular region and 2 k/wires above and below the schanz. This is fixed with arch. After that 5 to 6; 1.5 k/wires were introduced through the neck of the femur upto growth plate to increase vascularity and decrease the joint pressure.

Another one ring was applied in the upper 1/3rd of the femur with two cross k/wires. The frame is assembled with the above arch, with 15-20° abduction. Distraction is given on the table upto ½ cm. We continued distraction every 7 days alternatively for 3 weeks. Ilizarov apparatus was removed after 40 to 45 days.

Outcome measures
Children’s were evaluated every time. Complication and radiographic findings were recorded. Clinical results were assessed by Oxford hip score (OHS). Plain AP pelvic radiographs were analyzed. The neck shaft angle and the lateral extension index of Green were also assessed. Femoral head deformity and hip congruity were assessed by Stolberg classification (Figure 6).

Results
After a mean follow up of 12 years (range 4-12) 26 patients were included. There were 18 males and 8 females. The mean age at time of diagnosis was 6 years. Mean age at surgery was 7 years (range 4-12). The disease was bilateral in one case. Four patients were rated Catterall 2.0 (58%), were catterall 3 and 12 (32%) were catterall 4. Two patients were rated Herring A; 18 Herring B and 8 Herring C (Figure 7).

Discussion
Few studies to date have reported on the outcomes of Ilizarov distraction procedure in LCPD with long term follow up. Our study demonstrates very good long term survival after Ilizarov distraction with a rate of good radiological outcomes (Stulberg 1 to 3 and or kellgreen Lawrence <2) of 95% at 12 years. Hinge abduction was performed at fragmentation stage.
Figure 1 9-years-old child demonstrating limitation of internal rotation of right hip.

Figure 2 Trendelenburg test. Boy at left, standing on left leg.

Figure 3 “Roll” test for muscle spasm. Patient relaxed, lying supine on table.

Figure 4 Test for limitation of abduction.

Figure 5 Determination of proximal thigh atrophy.

Figure 6 Hypothetical Vicious cycle indicating the relations among the mechanical stress, femoral head deformity and ischaemia episodes.

Joseph et al. concluded that containment surgery aiming at preventing femoral head deformation in LCPD should be performed before the advanced stage of fragmentation. Green et al. noted 20% and less protrusion as a good prognostic indicator in LCPD cases (Table 1).
Table 1: Potential risk factors

| Characteristic          | Minimum | Maximum | Mean  | Standard Deviation |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|-------|--------------------|
| Age at Diagnosis        | 3.5     | 12      | 6     | 2.2                |
| Catterall               | 2       | 5       | 3     | 0.8                |
| Deformity Index         | 0.04    | 0.67    | 0.22  | 0.1                |
| Duration of Symptoms (Months) | 2   | 10      | 3     | 3                  |
| Delay of Diagnosis (Months) | 3  | 36      | 6     | 3.38               |

Figure 7: Diagnosis of 6 years old boy.

1. 6 years old boy. Right hip abduction is restricted.
2. Left side abduction is free.
3. Radiograph of both hip; right side is affected Catterall type - IV
4. Radiograph of right hip with Ilizarov fixator in situ (after 1 month follow up).
5. Child is doing Abduction exercises.
6. Fibrous repair of right hip is going on. 2 months follow up.
7. Radiographic result of right hip epiphysial height is increased.
8. Clinical appearance of the patient.
9. Abduction of both hip is increased after the treatment. Follow up after 6 months
10. The child can squat easily.

Our study is consistent with the good results of series with long term follow up by Ilizarov technique. Recently, Larson et al.9 reported on the 20 years follow up results of a prospective multicenter study of non-operative treatment and found a high prevalence of osteoarthrosis and low clinical outcome scores.

Ilizarov articulated hinge distraction provides effective containment, which allows prolonged remodeling while avoiding the limitations of femoral varus osteotomy (short limb) and salter osteotomy (incomplete containment).10

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

None.

References

1. Herring JA. Legg–Calvé–Perthes disease at 100: a review of evidence based treatment. J Pediatr Orthop. 2011;31(2suppl):S137–S140.
2. Santore RF, Turgeon TR, Phillips WF, et al. Pelvic and femoral osteotomy in the treatment of hip disease in the young adult. Instr Course Lect. 2006;55:131–144.
3. Bari MM. A color atlas of limb lengthening, surgical reconstruction and deformity correction by Ilizarov technique. 2013;pp.142–157.
4. Bari MM. Ilizarov Compression Distraction Method in Paediatric Orthopaedics. 2016;pp.217–233.
5. Catterall A, Pringle J, Byers PD, et al. A review of the morphology of perthes disease. J Bone Joint Surg Br. 1982;64(3):269–275.
6. Green NE, Beauchamp RD, Griffin PP. Epiphyseal extension as a prognostic index in Legg–Calvé–Perthes disease. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1981;63(6):900–905.
7. Stulberg SD, Cooperman DR, Wallensten R. The natural history of Legg–Calvé–Perthes disease. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1981;63(7):1095–1108.
8. Dawson J, Fitzpatrick R, Carr A, et al. Questionnaire on the perceptions of patients about total hip replacement. J Bone Joint Surg. 1996;78(2):185–190.
9. Larson AN, Sucato DJ, Herring JA, et al. A prospective multicenter study of Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, functional and radiographic outcomes of non-operative treatment at a mean follow up of twenty years. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2012;94(7):584–592.

10. Saran N, Varghese R, Mulpuri K. Do femoral an Salter innominate osteotomies improve femoral head sphericity in Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease? A meta-analysis. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2012;470(9):2383–2393.