2013 Subtalar Arthroereisis Survey: The current practice patterns of members of the AOFAS

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IFFAS 5th Triennial Scientific Meeting & AOFAS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
September 19-23, 2014
Disclosure

• 2013 Subtalar Arthroereisis Survey: The Current Practice Patterns of Members of the AOFAS

• Presenter: Neil S. Shah, M.D.

• My disclosure is in the Final AOFAS Mobile App

• I have no potential conflicts with this presentation
Historical Background

- Subtalar arthroereisis (SA) has been a procedure used for correction of painful flexible flatfoot deformity in adults & children.

- Modification of the Grice procedure, first reported by Haraldson in 1962, using allograft cortical bone wedges.

- Different implants used over past 50 years, varied by design & composition.
Introduction

• SA is a surgical procedure of the foot used for the treatment of flexible flatfoot deformity
• Advantages: small incision, less surgical pain, less trauma, more rapid recovery
• Clinical studies are sparse, with mixed results & variable indications
• Purpose of study: Determine current practice patterns among orthopaedic foot & ankle specialists regarding SA
Methods

• Web-based questionnaires were emailed to all members of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) in November 2013
• Follow up email was sent December 2013 for those who had not yet completed the survey
• Requested information included demographics & practice patterns in regards to performing SA surgery
• 572 respondents completed the survey (32% response rate)
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Have performed subtalar arthroereisis</th>
<th>Still perform subtalar arthroereisis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = 572 respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-U.S.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Past & Current Practice Patterns by U.S. Census Regions

Key:
Did you ever perform SA? (Yes%)  
Do you currently perform SA? (Yes%)

2013 Subtalar Arthroereisis Survey: The Current Practice Patterns of Members of the AOFAS
Past & Current Practice Patterns Worldwide

Key:
- Did you ever perform SA? (Yes%)
- Do you currently perform SA? (Yes%)

41% 25% 41% 55% 68% 67% 45% 47% 100% 100% 88% 81% 
NORTH AMERICA 55% EUROPE ASIA SOUTH AMERICA AFRICA AUSTRALIA and Oceania ANTARCTICA

n=438 n=42 n=38 n=36 n=4 n=4 n=16

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Most common indications for subtalar arthroereisis

- Painful congenital flexible flatfoot (68%)
- Posterior tibial tendon dysfunction (60%)
- Flatfoot associated with accessory navicular (41%)
Results

• 83% of responders who still perform the procedure have at some point had to remove the implant after the initial surgery.

• 80% of the U.S. group & 27% of non-U.S. group have experienced problems with payment from health insurance companies.
Conclusion

• Many have performed SA & a significant number no longer perform this procedure for various reasons
• Greater percentage of non-US practitioners performed & continue to perform SA than their U.S. counterparts
• There is a common list of surgical indications
• Most who still perform this procedure have removed the implants, most common reason is for pain
• Subtalar arthroereisis is still being performed in the United States & throughout the world
References