Summary: The purpose of this study is to report the short-term complication rates and mid-term subtalar fusion following operative management of calcaneus fractures using observational, population-based data from all inpatient admissions in California over a ten-year period.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to report the short-term complication rates and mid-term subtalar fusion following operative management of calcaneus fractures using observational, population-based data from all inpatient admissions in California over a ten-year period.


Main Outcome Measurement: Readmission for a short-term complication within 90 days of surgery and reoperation for subtalar fusion during the observation period.

Results: We examined 6,387 patients admitted to the hospital with a calcaneal fracture during the ten-year study period. We identified 4,481 patients that underwent open reduction and internal fixation of their fracture as inpatients within 30 days of the index admission, 91 undergoing primary subtalar fusion, and 1,815 having no record of operative treatment as inpatients within 30 days. The short-term rate of complications include a 90-day rate of readmission of 1.03% for wound infection, 0.25% for thromboembolic disease, and 0.22% for mortality. The mid-term rate of conversion to subtalar fusion for operatively treated patients was 3.49% at 5-years post-operatively.

Conclusions: This study reports the short-term complication rates and mid-term subtalar fusion rates following operative management of calcaneal fractures using population-based data.