11:05-11:15am - Morbidity of Bone Grafting Harvesting, From the Crest to the Ankle

Nicholas A. Abidi, MD
Santa Cruz, California

This discussion will summarize the morbidity associated with harvesting bone graft from the iliac crest, proximal tibia, distal tibia and calcaneus.

Bone graft harvesting for lower extremity surgical reconstruction is not a benign procedure. Complications at the bone graft donor site can range from excessive local pain, neurogenic pain, hematoma leading to infection, iatrogenic fracture and penetration of the abdominal viscera. The additional morbidity and cost of bone graft harvesting can exceed that of the primary procedure. Costs associated with iliac crest and local donor auto-graft have been noted to average $2236 and $1463 respectively. In addition, an additional 30 minutes of OR time has been observed for ICBG harvest, whereas an increase of 15 minutes of OR time has been noted for local bone graft harvest. Autogenous ICBG has been noted to increase the length of hospital stay by one day. The overall combined complication rate can range from 21% to 8%.

We will summarize some of the literature that outlines complication rates observed in iliac crest, proximal tibial and calcaneal bone grafting.