

Free vascularized versus non vascularized Medial Femoral Condyle Grafting in treatment of Scaphoid Nonunion

Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of M.D. Degree In
Orthopaedic Surgery

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Abstract

Advanced scaphoid nonunion with large defects , severe flexion deformity and AVN is even more difficult to treat . Many lines of treatment have been advocated starting from non-vascularized grafting alone , grafting with fixation to vascularized grafts which could be pedicled or more technically demanding free vascularized graft . Medial femoral condyle is one of the site for free graft harvesting with very good early studies results .

From June 2013 to June 2016 a randomized controlled prospective study was conducted to compare the results of using free vascularized versus non vascularized medial femoral condyle grafting in advanced scaphoid nonunion with following criteria

(Key Words

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Mostafa Ezzat Mahmoud

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of abbreviations	i
List of figures	ii
List of tables	vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
AIM OF WORK	2
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
Anatomical consideration	3
Natural history	10
Classification	13
Diagnosis	15
Scaphoid nonunion with AVN	19
Scaphoid nonunion with humpback deformity	24
Scaphoid nonunion advanced collapse	27
Treatment	28
Medial femoral condyle graft	41
CHAPTER THREE: PATIENTS AND METHODS	47
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS	66
CHAPTER FIVE: CASE PRESENTATIONS	74
CHAPTER SIX: DISCUSSION	94
CHAPTER SEVEN : summary and CONCLUSIONS	98
REFERENCES	100
ARABIC SUMMARY	110

List of abbreviations

AVN	: Avascular necrosis .
CL	: Capitulate angle .
CC	: Corticocancellous.
C-only	: Cancellous only .
DIC	: Dorsal intercarpal ligament.
DISI	: Dorsal intercalated segment instability .
dRCa	: dorsal radiocarpal artery .
dICa	: dorsal intercarpal artery.
dSRa	: dorsal supraplunate arches.
DGA	: Descending genicular artery .
DSLIL	: Dorsal part of the scapholunate interosseous ligament.
ECA	: Extensor compartment artery.
EPB	: Extensor pollicis brevis .
FCR	: Flexor carpi radialis.
FDMA	: First dorsal metacarpal artery.
FMB	: First metacarpal base .
1,2-ICSRA	: Intercompartmental supraplunate artery .
2,3-ICSRA	: Intercompartmental supraplunate artery.
MFC	: Medial femoral condyle .
MMWS	: Modified Mayo wrist score .
MCR	: Midcarpal radial portal.
PP	: Proximal pole .
RSC	: Radioscaphocapitate.
RLA	: Radio lunate angle .
RA	: Radial artery .
SNAC	: Scaphoid nonunion advanced collapse .
STT	: Scaphotrapezium ligament .
SLA	: Scapholunate angle .
UA	: Ulnar artery .

List of figures

Number	Title	Page
Figure 1	<i>Radial view. The primary blood supply to the scaphoid is through the dorsal branch of the radial artery. MCI = first metacarpal, R = radius, S = scaphoid, Tz = trapezium.</i>	4
Figure 2	<i>Drawing showing the dorsal volar ligaments of the wrist</i>	4
Figure3	<i>The scaphoid apex is the most dorsal and ulnar nonarticulating part of the scaphoid. The scaphoid of a right cadaver wrist seen from the a radial, B radiodorsal, C dorsal, D ulnar, and E distal side. The location of the scaphoid apex on the dorsal ridge is indicated by an arrow head.</i>	5
Figure 4	<i>The anatomic relationship between the dorsal intercarpal ligament (DIC), the dorsal part of the scapholunate interosseous ligament (DSLIL), and the dorsal apex of the ridge of the scaphoid</i>	6
Figure 5	<i>The volar type of scaphoid nonunion as seen from the lateral view showing the direction of fracture displacement (solid arrows) and the inferred contact area between the distal fragment of the scaphoid and the radius (open arrows)</i>	7
Figure 6	<i>The dorsal type of scaphoid nonunion as seen from the lateral view showing the direction of fracture displacement (solid arrow) and the inferred contact area between the distal fragment of the scaphoid and the radius (open arrows).</i>	7
Figure 7	<i>Types of lunate</i>	8
Figure 8	<i>a) rotating scaphoid . b) flexing scaphoid</i>	9
Figure 9	<i>Demonstrating apparent union after 6 weeks in plaster. Non-union is identified 39 months later when the patient re-injures his wrist</i>	11
Figure 10	<i>(a) PA view. (b) Lateral view. (c) PA view with ulnar deviation. (d) Semipronation view.</i>	16
Figure 11	<i>Semisupination view/bean view.</i>	17

Figure 12	<i>a) technique of longitudinal CT scan. b)target sign . c) sagittal reconstruction.</i>	18
Figure 13	<i>AP radiograph of the left wrist showing increased bone density as compared to the capitate bone</i>	19
Figure 14	<i>CT scan of the scaphoid showing : increased radiodensity of the proximal pole and the absence of converging trabeculae between the fragments.</i>	20
Figure 15	<i>different T1 signals Left up) normal (equivalent to bone marrow) T1-weighted signal .Right up) mildly heterogeneous T1-weighted signal. Left down) markedly heterogeneous T1-weighted signal. Right down) diffusely T1 decreased signal.</i>	21
Figure 16	<i>showing viable bone G1 (left) and necrotic bone G4(right).</i>	23
Figure 17	<i>A, Normal scapholunate angle (SL) is 30 to 60 degrees. A normal capitolute angle (CL) is (0-15) degrees. B, Displaced scaphoid fracture leads to dorsal intercalated segmental instability (SL angle >60 degrees) through internal angulation and humpback deformity.</i>	25
Figure 18	<i>Measurement of scaphoid deformity. A Height-to-length ratio B Dorsal cortical angle . C Intrascaphoid angle.</i>	26
Figure 19	<i>stages of SNAC wrist</i>	27
Figure 20	<i>Arthroscopic bone grafting</i>	32
Figure 21	<i>a) Russe technique . b) Hybrid Russe technique</i>	33
Figure 22	<i>A, Small osteotomies can be used to correct the humpback deformity of the scaphoid nonunion. B and C, tricortical bone graft can be harvested from the iliac crest or distal radius to help maintain the corrected position of the scaphoid</i>	35
Figure 23	<i>vascular anatomy of dorsal distal radius . The 1,2-ICSRA is preferred for vascularized bone grafting to the scaphoid . (RA) radial artery,(UA) ulnar artery,(dRCa) dorsal radiocarpar (dICa) dorsal</i>	37

	<i>intercarpal,(dSRa) dorsa lsupraretinacular arches,(1,2-ICSRA) , (2,3-ICSRA) intercompartmental supraretinacular artery and (ECA) extensor compartment artery.⁸¹</i>	
Figure 24	<i>A through C, The vascular graft described by Zaidenberg is based on an artery that runs in a retrograde fashion between the first and second dorsal compartments .</i>	38
Figure 25	<i>Volar vascularized bone graft for scaphoid nonunion. 1, Pronator quadratus; 2, palmar radiocarpal arch; 3, ulnar artery; 4, radial artery; 5, scaphoid nonunion; 6, vascularized graft.</i>	39
Figure 26	<i>incision for harvesting the thumb metacarpal vascularised graft Schematic view of the dorsolateral aspect of the thumb metacarpal. ‘A’ is the site of bone harvesting. In ‘B’, the vascularised bone graft is transposed beneath the abductor pollicis longus tendon (APL) and over the radial artery (RA) towards the scaphoid volar defect. (EPB) extensor pollicis brevis and (FDMA) first dorsal metacarpal artery. . (FCR) flexor carpi radialis, (ST) scaphoid tuberosity and (FMB) base of the first metacarpal.</i>	40
Figure 27	<i>The extraosseous branching patterns and arterial anatomy supplying the medial femoral condyle</i>	41
Figure 28	<i>The average distance of vessel origin measured from the joint line.</i>	42
Figure 29	<i>The average number of perforating vessels per quadrant of the medial femoral condyle. The quadrants are formed by drawing lines along the insertions of the hamstring and medial collateral ligament (A), from the insertion of the adductor magnus (B) and then from the proximal pole of the patella (C) and the anterior margin of the medial meniscus(D</i>	43
Figure 30	<i>Medial femoral condyle exposure</i>	44

Figure 31	<i>Exposure of the blood supply to the medial femoral condyle</i>	44
Figure 32	<i>Removing the graft . An additional cut is made distal to the graft at 45 degrees allowing the graft to be gently levered from the condyle in one piece without damaging the graft or the condyle</i>	45
Figure 33	<i>graft setting and anastomosis</i>	45
Figure 34	<i>Age distribution</i>	47
Figure 35	<i>sex distribution</i>	48
Figure 36	<i>side of injury</i>	48
Figure 37	<i>site of nonunion</i>	59
Figure 38	<i>plain xrays assessment. a) Posteroanterior , b)lateral ,c) supination and d) pronation oblique views</i>	50
Figure 39	<i>CT scan. a) coronal reconstruction showing comminution , b) coronal reconstruction showing hyperdense PP and c) sagittal reconstruction showing flexion deformity</i>	51
Figure 40	<i>MRI showing AVN . decreased PP signal in both a) T1 and b)T2 weighted images</i>	52
Figure 41	<i>flexion deformity distribution</i>	53
Figure 42	<i>AVN distribution</i>	53
Figure 43	<i>patient positioning</i>	54
Figure 44	<i>skin incision</i>	55
Figure 45	<i>superficial dissection</i>	56
Figure 46	<i>deep dissection</i>	56
Figure 47	<i>fracture debridement</i>	57
Figure 48	<i>gap sizing</i>	57
Figure 49	<i>correction of flexion deformity</i>	58
Figure 50	<i>donor site skin incision</i>	58
Figure 51	<i>vastus medialis elevation and pedicle identification</i>	59
Figure 52	<i>pedicle dissection</i>	59
Figure 53	<i>graft harvest</i>	60
Figure 54	<i>graft size.</i>	60
Figure 55	<i>vascular anastomosis</i>	61
Figure 56	<i>operative time comparison</i>	67
Figure 57	<i>plain xrays showing graft extrusion</i>	69
Figure 58	<i>plain x-rays showing ectopic bone formation</i>	70
Figure 59	<i>plain x-rays showing radioscapoid arthritis</i>	70
Figure 60	<i>comparison of complications details</i>	71

Figure 61	<i>case 1 preoperative xrays</i>	74
Figure 62	<i>case 1 preoperative CT scan</i>	75
Figure 63	<i>case 1 pre-operative MRI. a) T1 ,b) T2 images showing low PP (proximal pole) signal</i>	75
Figure 64	<i>case 1 postoperative xrays</i>	76
Figure 65	<i>case 1 8weeks postoperative xrays</i>	77
Figure 66	<i>case 1 13 months final xrays and CT scan.</i>	77
Figure 67	<i>case 1 final ROM</i>	78
Figure 68	<i>case 2 preoperative xrays</i>	79
Figure 69	<i>case 2 preoperative CT scan showing aligned scaphoid but hyperdense PP</i>	80
Figure70	<i>case 2 preopertive MRI showing a) T1 images with low PP signal b) T2 images with heterogenous PP signal</i>	80
Figure 71	<i>case 2 postoperative xrays</i>	81
Figure 72	<i>case 2 18 months follow up xrays</i>	82
Figure 73	<i>case 2 18 months CT scan</i>	82
Figure 74	<i>case 2 final ROM</i>	83
Figure 75	<i>case 3 preoperative xrays</i>	84
Figure 76	<i>case 3 preoperative CT scan showing flexion deformity and hyperdense PP</i>	85
Figure 77	<i>case 3 preoperative MRI showing a) T1 images with low PP signal b) T2 images with heterogeneous PP signal</i>	86
Figure 78	<i>case 3 postoperative xrays</i>	87
Figure 79	<i>case 3 34 months follow up xrays</i>	87
Figure 80	<i>case 3 final ROM</i>	88
Figure 81	<i>case 4 preoperative xrays</i>	89
Figure 82	<i>case 4 preoperative CT scan with flexion deformity and two defects in distal pole</i>	90
Figure 83	<i>case 4 preoperative MRI showing a) T1 images with low distal pole signal b) T2 images with heterogeneous distal pole .</i>	90
Figure 84	<i>case 4 one month postoperative xrays showing graft extrusion</i>	91
Figure 85	<i>case 4 12 months follow up x-rays after distal scaphoidectomy</i>	92
Figure 86	<i>case 4 final ROM</i>	93

List of tables

number	Title	Page
Table 1	<i>Slade and Geissler classification</i>	14
Table 2	<i>nonunion time .</i>	49
Table 3	<i>size of defect.</i>	52
Table 4	<i>Modified Mayo wrist score (MMWS).</i>	63
Table 5	<i>Preoperative patient data</i>	65
Table 6	<i>follow up period</i>	66
Table 7	<i>comparison of the two groups in numerical data</i>	68
Table 8	<i>comparison of the two groups in categorical data</i>	68
Table 9	<i>comparison of complications details</i>	71
Table 10	<i>relation of union to other variables (categorical data)</i>	72
Table 11	<i>relation of union to other variables (numerical data).</i>	72
Table 12	<i>Postoperative patient data</i>	73
Table 13	<i>comparison of our study to other medial femoral condyle free studies</i>	96

Introduction

Scaphoid fracture is the most common carpal fracture. It accounts for approximately 60% to 90% of carpal and 11% of hand fracture.¹

The term “scaphoid” is derived from the Greek word “skaph” which means skiff and is named for its likeness to a boat. However, the 3-dimensional shape of the scaphoid is more complex. The precise evaluation of the fracture configuration, angulation, displacement, and accuracy of screw placement is hindered by the peculiar twisted peanut like shape of the scaphoid.²

Besides its shape, the scaphoid is predominantly articular. With the predominantly articular nature of the scaphoid, there are few potential sites for the entrance of perforating vessels. It is well known that scaphoid has a tenuous vascular supply.³

Moreover, the scaphoid is the focus of ligamentous attachment. It is the key link of the wrist and govern the carpal kinematics. Therefore, preservation of the scaphoid anatomy and vascularity is critical for normal hand and wrist function.³

Scaphoid nonunion continues to present a unique clinical challenge. Natural history studies by **Mark** and colleagues, **Ruby** and colleagues, and **Linstrom** and **Nystrom** indicated an incidence of almost 100% of radiographic wrist arthritis between 5 and 20 years after scaphoid nonunion in symptomatic patients.⁴

Scaphoid nonunion complicated by proximal pole necrosis and humpback collapse remain a challenging clinical scenario. vascularized grafts which provide structural support as a volar wedge have demonstrated excellent rates of union, restoration of scaphoid geometry, and good clinical outcomes. Of these, the medial femoral condyle (MFC) graft has a robust and consistent vascular supply and optimal density of bone. it has become a promising alternative in the treatment algorithm for scaphoid nonunion.⁵

Aim of work

To compare the efficiency of free medial condyle vascularized grafting versus non-vascularized medial femoral condyle grafting in treatment of advanced scaphoid nonunion with large defects and/or avascular necrosis (AVN) and /or flexion deformity .

Anatomical consideration of the scaphoid nonunion

- **Skeletal anatomy :**

The scaphoid has an unusual shape; Four different regions . They are the tubercle, waist, distal pole, and proximal pole .

The scaphoid is 75% articular, especially the ulnar side. Proximally, the scaphoid articulates with the distal radius at the scaphoid fossa, and distally with the trapezoid and trapezium. Ulnarly, it articulates with the lunate proximally and the capitate distally.

The volar surface is partly nonarticular. The tubercle, which points radiovolarly, serves as an attachment for several ligaments and is also almost entirely covered by the crossing flexor carpi radialis (FCR) tendon. The scaphoid is oriented in the carpus with an intrascaphoid angle averaging approximately 40° in the coronal plane and 30° in the sagittal plane.⁶

- **Blood supply** (Figure 1) :

About 70 to 80% of the intraosseous vascularity and the entire proximal pole are supplied from branches of the radial artery entering through the radiodorsal ridge. Having a singular dominant intraosseous vessel predisposes the scaphoid to avascular necrosis and nonunion if fractured.⁶

The major palmar blood vessels arise from either the radial artery directly or the superficial palmar arch and divide into several smaller branches before coursing obliquely and distally over the palmar aspect of the scaphoid to enter through the region of the tubercle.⁶

In addition, **Herbert** and **Lanzetta** have hypothesized that there must be some blood supply through the scapholunate ligament complex. From their cases series, proximal pole fragments remained viable when their only remaining attachment was to the scapholunate ligament.⁷