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OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF RECENT FRACTURES OF THE CALCANEUS

**Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfillment
For the M.D. Degree in Orthopedics**

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Introduction and Aim of the Work

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Introduction and Aim of the Work

Historically, calcaneal fractures are divided into the two broad categories of intra-articular and extra-articular fractures. While the treatment of the extra-articular fractures is relatively simple, numerous controversies surround our understanding of the treatment of intra-articular calcaneal fractures (*Hamesfahr, 1989*).

In the 1970, the philosophy of treatment of intra-articular calcaneal fractures changed from that of non-operative treatment to that of operative one. This change developed for several reasons:

- The number of studies with good results from operative treatment increased.
- Advances in the development of internal fixation devices.
- The quality of the instruments and the variety of devices available allowed for the development of techniques specific to the problems of calcaneal fractures.
- The mechanism of injury of calcaneal fractures became more clear, and as a result, the fracture was more clearly categorized.

(*Soeur and Remy, 1975*)

It seems illogical that the subtalar joint should be treated differently than other weight-bearing joints with displaced intra-articular fractures. It is well established that intra-articular fracture should be treated with an anatomic reduction and stable fixation to permit painless early motion. These techniques offer the patient the best chance of preventing the development of post-traumatic arthrosis and loss of motion (*Leung et al., 1989*).

Melcher et al. (1991) firmly believes that a majority of displaced intra-articular fractures profit from surgical reconstruction and stabilization and that, in this way, much more consistent functional results are achieved than with conservative therapy. This operative method of treatment of intra-articular calcaneal fractures is not only the reduction of the displaced fracture, but also the restoration of the heel height, width, alignment and related foot biomechanics.

Paley and Hall (1989) demonstrated that there was a direct relation between results and patho-anatomy.

The aim of this work is to study and evaluate the results of surgical reconstruction of recent fractures of the calcaneus in thirty-two patients. *intra-articular #*

