

# Corrective Osteotomy of the Femur for Aseptic Necrosis of the Femoral Head after Bloodless Reduction of Congenital Dislocation in Preschool Children

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**Abstract** The prompt results of treatment of 72 children aged 7 to 12 years with aseptic necrosis of the femoral head after bloodless diminishment of intrinsic hip dislocation were analyzed. When treating patients, the following sorts of surgical treatment were used: extra-articular or open centering of the femoral head with intertrochanteric torsion-varizing or devarizing and rotational osteotomy of the femur with its “apophysiodesis” of the more noteworthy trochanter. In the case of acetabular dysplasia, the over interventions can be supplemented with acetabular plastic surgery. Pain and lameness vanished in all patients, internal rotation of the lower extremities when strolling, and the range of motion within the hip joint improved. Improved radiometric parameters characterizing the proportion of the acetabulum and the head of the femur and the angular values of the hip joint and proximal femur. Corrective intertrochanteric-rotational osteotomies of the femurs can be successfully used in the treatment of deformities of the PFB in aseptic necrosis of the femoral head (ANFH) in preschool children. The operation allows you to change the spatial position of the head and neck of the femur in three planes and normalize the position of the greater trochanter.

**Keywords** Congenital hip dislocation, Aseptic necrosis of the femoral head, Hip joint, Deformity of the proximal femur, Surgical correction

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## 1. Introduction

Relevance: Aseptic necrosis of the femoral head (ANFH) could be a frequent and serious complication that occurs after reduction of congenital hip dislocation in children, driving to the early improvement of dysplastic coxarthrosis and inability, the leading neurotic activating mechanism of which is ischemia of the femoral head [1, pp. 314-315; 5, pp. 218; 8, pp. 229-230]. According to the literature, the frequency of this complication with a closed decrease of hip disengagement changes from 10 to 60% [13, pp. 552-562; 18, pp. 4-12; 20]. Most experts recognize that the driving part within the pathogenesis of aseptic necrosis is the iatrogenic disturbance of blood supply in the proximal femur [4, pp. 255; 9, 35-36; 19, pp. 35-36]. Undoubtedly, repeated attempts at reduction, which end in vain regardless of the cause, in combination with prolonged immobilization in a

plaster cast in the antephysiological position of the lower extremities lead to iatrogenic damage to the joint structure, cause vascular disorders, which ultimately initiates the occurrence of various deformities of the femoral head [2, pp. 22; 3, pp. 6-14; 4, 255; 6, pp. 182; 10, pp. 248; 15, pp. 54-59]. The severity of residual deformities depends on the severity of the lesion of the ossification nucleus of the epiphysis of the femoral head, at the beginning of the pathological process [16, pp. 196-202; 20]. Deformities of the proximal femur (PFB) in children after AFH are not uncommon and often require complex surgical interventions [11, pp. 249-25017; 21, pp. 302-314]. This gives the problem under study not only a medical but also a social character. Treatment of type II deformity of POBD according to Kalamchi-MacEwen: is extremely difficult, and the most difficult is the correction of multiplanar deformities, in which the main task of the intervention is to normalize all deviations, “as far as possible” [22, pp. 209-226], and the works devoted to it are isolated [19, pp. 22-28]. To normalize

the relationships in the joint, the surgical method is the only one, and N. Clarke [14, pp. 434-439] saw the main task of treating deformities after aseptic necrosis in their "minimization by surgery", and Y.I. Pozdnyukin [9, pp. 35-36] considered the restoration of the shape and joint function. The presence of such a variety of methods of treatment indicates their insufficient effectiveness, the absence of justified criteria for choosing rational methods of surgical interventions. It is believed that type II deformity according to Kalamchi occurs most often and ranges from 25 to 61% [17, pp. 1962-1700; 19, pp. 22-28]. The problem of the treatment of ANFH and the consequences of impaired growth of the lateral part of the proximal femoral growth plate does not always lead to satisfactory results [7, pp. 149-1151; 11, pp. 249-250; 12, pp. 138-145; 17, pp. 1962-1700; 22, pp. 209-226].

**The aim of this study** is to evaluate the effectiveness of using corrective intertrochanteric osteotomies of the femur in preschool children with aseptic necrosis of the femoral head.

## 2. Materials and Research Methods

The immediate results of treatment of 72 children, aged from 7 to 12 years, with deformities of the proximal femur with ANFH after bloodless reduction of congenital hip dislocation were analyzed. All patients had a multiplanar deformation of the proximal end of the femur: a decrease or increase in the cervico-shaft angle of the femur, valgus deviation of the pineal gland, shortening of the femoral neck, high standing of the greater trochanter, and a negative value of the articulo-trochanteric distance. During the X-ray examination of children, the X-ray of the hip joints was performed in the anteroposterior projection with the middle position of the hips and with internal rotation, as well as in the Lauenstein position. Radiographs were used to measure parameters characterizing the angular values of the hip joint and proximal femur, the angle of the vertical tilt of the depression, the angle of vertical correspondence, the acetabular angle, the cervico-diaphyseal angle, the angle of anteversion, the Alsberg angle, and the coefficient of bone coverage. For a detailed analysis of the ongoing anatomical changes, we studied the indicators characterizing the ratio of the femoral head to the greater trochanter in the frontal plane: articulo-trochanteric distance (ATD); trochanter-trochanter distance (TTD); Articulo-rotational distance (ARD) Indication for the use of corrective osteotomies was a combination of clinical and radiological data - lameness, faulty positioning of the lower extremities, significant limitation of hip abduction, weakness of the gluteal muscles, impaired relationships in the hip joint, subluxation of the femoral head, deformity of the proximal femur : plow valga (caudal position of the greater trochanter), plow vara (cranial position of the greater trochanter), plow breva, high position relative to the head of the femur (relative overgrowth of the greater trochanter), sohamagna, and not the shortening

of the lower limb itself. The decision was made strictly individually: for each individual patient, the amount of the proposed correction was determined, taking into account the already occurring irreversible secondary changes (structural scoliosis, pelvic misalignment) and age. When treating patients, the following types of surgical treatment were used: extra-articular centering of the femoral head with intertrochanteric torsion-varizing or devarizing and rotational osteotomy of the femur with "apophysiodesis" of the greater trochanter. In acetabular dysplasia, correcting intertrochanteric osteotomies of the femoral bone were combined with acetabuloplasty, which should be performed simultaneously with femoral osteotomy. The results of treatment were analyzed over a period of 8 months to 3 years. Clinical outcomes were assessed by McKey.

## 3. The Main Findings and Results

**Clinical example No. 1.** Clinical example No. 1. B-i: I.R. 2011 year of birth I / b No. 397. She was admitted to the department with complaints of lameness in the left leg, shortening of the left lower limb and limitation of abduction in the left hip joint. From the anamnesis, congenital dislocation of the right hip was diagnosed at 4 months of age. She was treated on an outpatient basis by applying a plaster cast according to Sheptun for a period of 4.5 months. After removing the plaster cast, a Vilensky splint was put on the lower limbs. 12 months after bloodless reduction, aseptic necrosis of the head of the right femur was diagnosed. In 2018, she turned to our clinic with the above complaints. Dose: Congenital dislocation of the right hip. Condition after bloodless reduction. Residual subluxation of the right thigh due to aseptic necrosis of the head. Deformity of the proximal part of the right femur of type IV according to Kalamchi: coxa vara, coxa breva et antetorsia, hypertrophy of the greater trochanter. Acetabular dysplasia.

Clinically: the patient walks independently, limping on the right lower limb. Movement in the hip joints of the sagittal plane in full, extension-180°/0°/180°, flexion-120°/0°/120°, abduction-300°/0°/500°, internal rotation-600°/0°/400°, external rotation-30°/0°/30°. Trendelenburg's symptom is positive on the right.

The main manifestation on the anteroposterior radiograph of the pelvis is the lateral inclination of the epiphysis of the femoral head, shortening of the lateral part of the femoral neck compared to the medial part. Joint stability is reduced, the head and neck of the femoral bones are shortened, the cervico-diaphyseal angle (SDA): 120°, the apex of the greater trochanter of the right femur is located closer to the upper pole of the femoral head, (ATD: 10 mm.), Shenton's line break by 1.0 see, acetabular dysplasia.

X-ray: otmechaetsya podvyvix head of the left hip with klassicheskoy deformatsiyey head of the right hip bone of type II: soxa vara, coxa breva et antetorsia, hypertrophy bolshogo vertela. Acetabular dysplasia. Fig. 1 (a, b).

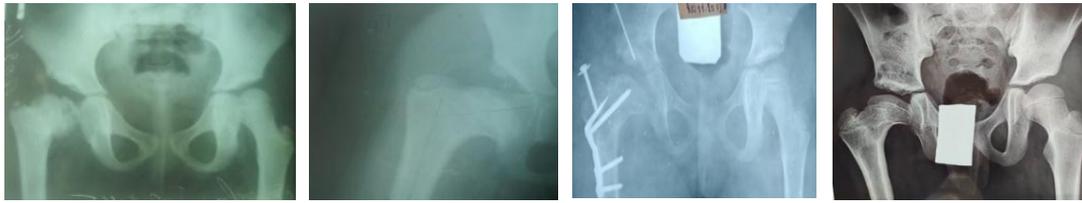


Figure 1 (a)

Figure 1 (b)

Figure 1 (c)

Figure 1 (d)

Fig. 1 (a). X-ray of the hip joints in the anteroposterior projection with the middle position of the lower extremities.

Fig. 1 (b). X-ray of the hip joints in the anteroposterior projection in the position of internal rotation and abduction of the left lower extremity: the head and neck of the femur are shortened and thickened, centered on the bottom of the acetabulum, SDA:  $120^\circ$ , ATD: has a negative value of -5 mm., Shenton's line rupture, acetabular dysplasia.

On 09.12.2018, a surgical intervention was performed: *open centering of the head of the right femur with intertrochanteric detorsion-valgus-posterior rotational osteotomy of the femur, apophysiodesis of the greater trochanter and Pemberton's roof of the acetabulum*. Fig. 1 (c).

Fig. 1 (c): the head of the right femur is centered on the bottom of the acetabulum, intertrochanteric corrective osteotomy of the femur with fixation of bone fragments "L" shaped plate and 3 screws, apophysiodesis of the greater trochanter with 1 screw, pericapsular plasty of the acetabular roof depressions with an inclination of the distal fragment anteriorly, outward and downward, with the insertion of an autograft into the formed groove and its synthesis with a wire. SDU: 1250/1300.

On June 21, 2018, the following was performed: *removal of the hardware of the proximal part of the right femur and from the wing of the ilium*. Fig. 1 (c).

The result 2 years after the surgical treatment: the head of the left femur is centered on the bottom of the cavity, with a good covering of the roof of the acetabulum, SDA: 1300/1300, ATD 8 mm. Rice # 1 (d).

Fig. 1 (d) STO: the head of the right femur is centered on the bottom of the acetabulum, with satisfactory coverage, complete consolidation of the fragments of the femur in the intertrochanteric region, SDA:  $125^\circ/130^\circ$ , the growth of the greater trochanter of the right femur is suspended, (ATD: 12 mm), the continuity of the Shenton line is restored.

Surgical intervention made it possible to restore the center of the femoral head, improve its coverage, normalize the cervico-diaphyseal angle, increasing it to 1300 and improve the congruence of the articular surfaces, normalize the position of the greater trochanter, by stopping its growth, improve the biomechanics of the joint and lengthen the femoral neck and limb in the whole.

**Clinical example No. 2.** Patient E.E. 07/24/2011 year of birth. Was admitted to the hospital with complaints of pain and fatigue in the left hip joint after physical exertion. Previously, she was treated conservatively for congenital dislocation of the left hip. Dz: Congenital dislocation of the left hip. Condition after bloodless reduction. Residual

subluxation of the left thigh due to aseptic necrosis of the head. Deformation of the proximal femur of type II according to Kalamchi: coxa vara, coxa breva et antetorsia, high position of the greater trochanter. Acetabular dysplasia.

Clinically: walks independently, limping on the left lower limb. Movement in the hip joints of the sagittal plane in full, extension- $180^\circ/0^\circ/180^\circ$ , flexion- $120^\circ/0^\circ/120^\circ$ , abduction- $50^\circ/0^\circ/30^\circ$ , internal rotation- $40^\circ/0^\circ/60^\circ$ , external rotation- $30^\circ/0^\circ/30^\circ$ . Trendelenburg's symptom is positive on the left.

The development of deformity is based on damage to the lateral part of the head growth zone in combination with the lateral part of the metaphysis, followed by a slowdown and cessation of the growth of the lateral part of the neck due to the premature closure of the compromised part of the physis. The main manifestation on the anteroposterior radiograph of the pelvis is the lateral inclination of the epiphysis of the femoral head, shortening of the lateral part of the femoral neck compared to the medial part. Radiographically: there is a classic deformity of the proximal left femur according to type II: shortening of the femoral neck (plow breva), anterior rotation of the proximal femur (antetorsia), hypertrophy of the greater trochanter. Joint stability is reduced. Pronounced shortening of the head and neck of the femur. SDA: 1300/1250, the apex of the greater trochanter of the left femur is located somewhat closer to the upper pole of the head (ADT on the left 10 mm.), Shenton's line gap is 1.0 cm. Fig. 2 (a, b).

Fig. 2 (a) X-ray of the hip joints: subluxation of the left femoral head, classic deformity of the proximal left femur by the type of shortening of the femoral neck (plow breva), anterior rotation of the proximal femur (antetorsia), hypertrophy of the greater trochanter. Joint stability is reduced. Pronounced shortening of the head and neck of the femur. SDU: 1300/1000, the apex of the greater trochanter of the left femur is located somewhat closer to the upper pole of the head (ADT on the left 10 mm.), Shenton's line break by 1, see.

Fig. 2 (b) X-ray in the position of internal rotation of the left lower extremity: the head and neck of the femur are shortened and thickened, centered on the bottom of the acetabulum, SDA: 1000, ATD: 10 mm., Shenton's line rupture by 1.0 cm, acetabular dysplasia.

On February 22, 2019, surgical intervention was performed: *extra-articular centering of the left femur head with intertrochanteric detorsion-valgizing-posterior rotational osteotomy of the femur, apophysiodesis of the greater trochanter and Pemberton's roof of the acetabulum*. Fig. 2 (c).

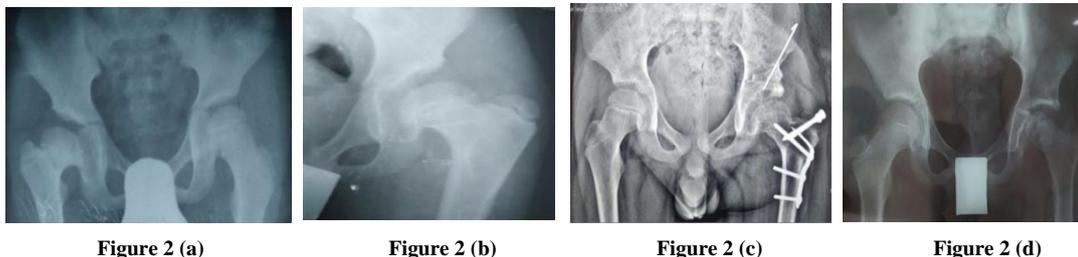


Figure 2 (a)

Figure 2 (b)

Figure 2 (c)

Figure 2 (d)

Fig. 2 (c): STR: the head of the left femur is centered on the bottom of the acetabulum, intertrochanteric correction of the femur with fixation of bone fragments with an “L” shaped plate and 3 screws, apophysiodesis of the greater trochanter with 2 screws, pericapsular roof plasty the acetabulum with an inclination of the distal fragment anteriorly, outward and downward with insertion into the formed groove of an autograft and its synthesis with a wire. SDA: 130°/130°.

On 08.08.2019, a surgical intervention was performed: *removal of metal structures from the proximal part of the left femur and the wing of the ilium.*

The result 2 years after the surgical treatment: the head of the left femur is centered on the bottom of the cavity, with a good covering of the roof of the acetabulum, SDA: 130°/130°, ATD 8 mm. Rice # 2 (d).

The intervention made it possible to restore the center of the left femoral head, cervico-shaft angle, improve the congruence of the articular surfaces, normalize the position of the greater trochanter, improve the biomechanics of the joint, lengthen the femoral neck and the limb as a whole.

Results and their discussion. It is a well-known fact of the staged development of the hip joint in children in the postnatal period, and in this regard, the changing anatomy of the joint is accompanied by a change. Violation of the growth and formation of the proximal end of the femur depends on the premature closure of the growth zone, its “epiphysiodesis” in one or another of its parts after bloodless reduction of congenital hip dislocation. Most of the patients came to the hospital with complaints of walking with internal rotation of the lower extremities, lameness, rapid fatigue during long walks and fatigue in the legs. All of them were previously treated for congenital hip dislocation conservatively. In dynamics, aseptic necrosis of the femoral head was diagnosed with the development of various deformities of the proximal femur, depending on the child's age, the anatomical state of the hip joint at that time. We evaluated the radiological criteria for stability, centering of the femoral head in the acetabulum, and congruence of the affected hip joints. X-ray control was carried out 3-6-12 months after the operation, and then once a year. Analysis of the results of surgical treatment of proximal femur deformity (PFB) in aseptic necrosis of the femoral head showed that correction of secondary changes in the anatomy of the proximal femur and disorders of articular relationships has a positive effect on the course of reparative processes and the absence of further progression of pathology.

## 4. Conclusions

Surgical intervention in childhood must be carried out not only taking into account the existing deviations, but also those deformations that will inevitably arise as a result of the continued functioning of the damaged growth zones of the proximal femur. Dystrophic lesions after bloodless reduction of congenital hip dislocation can affect the head in combination with damage to the growth zone of the femoral neck. Violation of the growth and formation of the proximal femur depends on the premature closure of the growth zone, its partial or total “epiphysiodesis” in one or another of its parts after bloodless reduction. Quite often, the formation of deformity is accompanied by a violation of the stability of the joint, both due to the valgus deviation of the femoral head and in connection with secondary dysplasia of the acetabulum, decentering of the femoral head, incongruence of the articular surfaces, and proximal migration of the greater trochanter. Each type of deformity requires correction of its inherent deviations, including multiplanar ones. Correcting transotrochanteric rotational osteotomies of the femurs can be successfully used in the treatment of deformities in schoolchildren. For acetabular dysplasia, they can be supplemented with acetabular plastic surgery. The operations allow to change the spatial position of the head and neck of the femur in three planes and normalize the position of the greater trochanter. All children who have undergone aseptic necrosis of the femoral head, even without signs of impaired stability of the hip joint, need dynamic observation to select the optimal timing for correction of the emerging deformity, if necessary.

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