Operative treatment of flexor pollicis longus tendon with Krackow suture, functional results: Preliminary results

INTRODUCTION: Surgical treatment of the injured flexor tendons is the important part of hand surgery. Tendon adhesions, ruptures, joint contractures-stiffness are only one part of the problem one is faced during the tendon treatment. In spite of improvement in surgical technique and suture material, the end result of sutured flexor tendons still represent a serious problem. THE AIM of study is to present of operative treatment of flexor pollicis longus injury with Krakow suture technique. METHODS. All patients are treated in the first 48 hours after the accident. The regional anesthesia was performed with use of turniquet. Beside spare debridement, the reconstruction of digital nerves was done. All patients started with active and passive movements-exercises on the first postoperative day. Follow-up was from 6 to 24 months. In evaluation of functional recovery the grip strength, pinch strength, range of movements of interphalangeal and metacarpophalangeal joint and DASH score were used. RESULTS. In the last two years there were 30 patients, 25 males (83.33%) and 5 females (16.66%). Mean age was 39.8 years, ranged from 17 to 65 years. According to mechanism of injury the patients were divided in two groups: one with sharp and other with wider zone of injury. Concomitant digital nerve lesions was noticed in 15 patients (50%). CONCLUSION. The Krackow suture allowed early rehabilitation, which prevent tendon adhesions, enabled faster and better functional recovery.

Keywords: flexor tendon, surgical repair, hand injuries, rehabilitation

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