

## Comparison of Treatment Results in Patients with Trochanteric Pressure Ulcers with and without Hip Joint Involvement

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**Introduction.** Pressure ulcers (PU) are common recurring complications in patients who are paraplegic or bed-bound. About 67% of all PU are localised in pelvic region, trochanteric PU are found in up to 40% of them. Pressure ulcers with hip joint involvement and septic arthritis are considered to be more difficult to treat, often requiring extended surgery and causing more complications.

**The aim.** The aim of the study is to assess the impact of hip joint involvement in trochanteric PU treatment, complication rate and outcome options, comparing two patient groups – with and without hip joint septic arthritis.

**Materials and methods.** From May 2006 to May 2011, 71 paraplegic or bed-bound patients with trochanteric region PU were treated in Wound Clinic, 55 of them underwent surgery. In retrospective study we included 37 monolateral trochanteric PU with or without hip joint involvement.

Patients were analysed for following parameters – total hospital stay, number of reoperations, total surgery time, number of blood transfusions, days in ICU, clinical course complications (SIRS, MODS, sepsis, pneumonia), local and surgery complications (wound dehiscence, healing by secondary intention, seromas and hematomas, partial flap necrosis).

**Results.** In total, 37 patients were included in this study.

Group	Description	Type of surgery
Group 1 (n = 25)	One side trochanteric pressure ulcer without hip joint involvement	Tensor fascia lata (TFL) flap
Group 2 (n = 12)	One side trochanteric pressure ulcer with hip joint involvement	TFL + vastus lateralis flaps

Group 1 and Group 2 did not differ regarding median age, sex or total number of PU per patient. Total hospital stay for Group 1 was 81.4 days, and 126 days for Group 2 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Total surgery time was longer in Group 2 with 655.2 min compared to 325.8 min for Group 1 ( $p < 0.01$ ). Group 1 received a smaller number of blood transfusions compared to Group 2, with 3.2 and 12.3 blood packs, respectively ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions.** Patients with trochanteric PU and septic hip joint arthritis have a much more severe treatment course compared to those without joint involvement, including significantly longer hospital stay, total operation time, and higher number of blood transfusions.

We believe it is required to do everything possible for the sake of patients with pressure ulcers to avoid septic hip joint arthritis.