Abstract

One of the more effective surgical methods for the correction of bone defects is the transport by osteogenesis by progressive distraction with an external fixation device, since it allows to extend the bone and to correct angular deformities when required. The Central Military Hospital of Bogotá (HMC) as the referral center of wounded in battle from the Military Forces, handles a high index of patients with open fractures by high speed firearms, fragmentation weapons or land mines, which cause open bone fractures and extensive soft tissue damage. For these patients the best alternative is the external fixation devices, which stabilize the fracture and allow the handling of the soft tissue defects. The Hospital (HMC) receives a yearly average of 348 patients hurt in combat, 846 of which have required reconstructive processes at the bone level in the last 12 years. Immediate shortenings are made in severe segmental defects and if it isn't infected the bony transport is made at the same surgical time. The patients with infections, a very frequent complication in this type of injuries, are handled with resection of the infected segment of bone first, followed of shortening and bone transport without requiring bone grafts. In those patients with residual length discrepancy as a sequel, bone lengthening is done at a rate of 0.25 mm each 6 hours.

Keywords

Bony defect, bone transport.