A massive interest for Havana Annual International Conference 2004

26-29 September 2004
Havana, Cuba

In this issue

- Evidence based medicine 2
- Editorial by Prof John C.Y. Leong 3
- Country to country: It happened in Lahore, Pakistan 4
- On the web: Getting ready for Havana 6
- Committee life: Young Surgeons Committee 8
- Young Surgeons: Dr. Nedelcu, Romania 9
- Worldwide news: Internationalism 10

No. 87
June 2004
Background: Below knee amputation (BKA) may be necessary in patients with advanced critical limb ischaemia or diabetic foot sepsis in whom no other treatment option is available. There is no consensus as to which surgical technique achieves the maximum rehabilitation potential.

Objectives: To look at the evidence comparing different surgical techniques for BKA using stump healing, wound infection, reamputation rate and mobility with a prosthetic limb as outcome measures.

Search strategy: Publications describing randomised controlled trials comparing different types of incision for below knee amputation were sought using the search strategy described by the Cochrane Review Group on Peripheral Vascular Diseases.

Selection criteria: Randomised controlled trials comparing two or more types of incision for BKA were identified. All patients with lower limb ischaemia (acute or chronic) and/or diabetic foot sepsis were considered for inclusion. Patients undergoing below knee amputation for other conditions were excluded.

Data collection and analysis: Three studies were included in the analysis: two-stage versus one-stage BKA; skew flaps BKA versus long posterior flap BKA; sagittal flaps BKA versus long posterior flap BKA. Data were extracted independently by both authors.

Main results: BKA using skew flaps or sagittal flaps conferred no advantage over the well established long posterior flap technique. For patients with wet gangrene, a two-stage procedure with a guillotine amputation at the ankle followed by a definitive long posterior flap amputation leads to better primary stump healing than a one-stage procedure.

Reviewers’ conclusions: Evidence suggests that the choice of amputation technique has no effect on outcome and can therefore be a simple matter of surgeon preference. Factors which might influence this include previous experience of a particular technique, the extent of non-viable tissue, and the location of pre-existing surgical scars.

Citation: Tisi PV, Callam MJ. Type of incision for below knee amputation (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. A substantive amendment to this systematic review was last made on 10 September 2003. Cochrane reviews are regularly checked and updated if necessary.
The first reference to an international orthopaedic organisation which eventually became SICOT was a letter written by Dr Robert William Lovett of Boston, USA in 1917 that he had found support among his American colleagues for the formation of an international society of orthopaedic surgery. The idea came to fruition when the first meeting of SICO took place in Paris at the Hotel Crillon in October 1929.

Although the “internationalism” at that time involved only Europe and the United States of America, the extent of “internationalism” increased slowly but steadily to reach Asia and South America in the last three decades. There are other orthopaedic societies that have a much bigger membership, with much stronger financial resources than SICOT, such as the AAOS and EFORT. What SICOT has, and other orthopaedic societies do not have, is the scope of internationalism. We have members coming from 105 nations. The ideas, innovations, practical experience, and spectrum of clinical problems coming from the members of these 105 nations offer a broader perspective, a much more balanced viewpoint, and much less inbreeding of ideas, to further the science and art of orthopaedics and traumatology.

Without true internationalism, however strong and advanced the discipline may be in one country, there is a risk that its members may have a blinkered vision of the practice of orthopaedic surgery.

The first major SICOT meeting held on the African continent in Cairo reached out to a large part of the region. The coming Annual International Conference in Havana, Cuba will reach out to another major part of the world. Whilst many conferences focus on the most recent technology and sophisticated operative techniques only, SICOT meetings combine these together with focusing on application of more down-to-earth methods in countries where the very expensive implants and techniques are not always relevant.

“Internationalism” has matured and blossomed in SICOT. This is our uniqueness. As members of the world orthopaedic fraternity, it is up to all of you to maintain and enhance this internationalism.

Prof John C.Y. Leong
SICOT President
On 19 January 2004 SICOT opened its first Education Centre in Lahore, Pakistan, country of Prof Dr Muhammad Syed Awais, SICOT National Delegate. The venue was Mayo Hospital, King Edward Medical College. The event was attended by SICOT officials, delegates of the World Health Organisation and representatives of the local authorities.

Excerpts from the article “First-ever trauma centre at King Edward College” in “The Nation” – Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Tuesday 20 January 2004

The much-needed centre is established under the aegis of International Society for Orthopaedic and Traumatology (SICOT) as the members of the society had donated Rs 10.50 million for this centre.

Khalid Maqbool also urged upon the doctors to create awareness about un-adulterated food, pure medicines and bacteria-free water saying “prevention is better than treatment.”

The Punjab Governor further underlined the need for carrying out research in the field of allopathic medicines keeping in view the local environment and said medical curriculum needed to be modernised.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first-ever tele-diagnostic centre in the country that will help bone specialists to evaluate and treat orthopaedic and muscle-skeleton disorder patients through medication or through advanced and complicated surgical procedure.

Father of Orthopaedic Surgery Prof. Naseer Mahmud Akhter, I.A. Naveed Acting Principal King Edward Medical College, Syed Muhammad Ovais, Head of the Department of Orthopaedic, KEMC, Prof. Maurice Hinsenkamp and Prof. Muhammad Hayat Zafar also spoke on the occasion.
From left: Dr Meena Cherian (WHO), Prof Sorbie, Dr Irma Velazquez (WHO), Prof Hinsenkamp and Prof Dr Awais in front of the Punjab University

For more details on the SICOT Education Centre please visit: http://www.sicot.org/?page=educcenter
SICOT is most grateful to the members of the Scientific Board who took the time and the trouble to review the abstracts of the SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference, Havana, Cuba:

Prof Bartolome T. Allende, Argentina  Dr Prakash Heda, Kenya  Prof Rocs P. Petta, New Zealand
Prof Dr Sc. Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, Cuba  Prof Peter Herberts, Sweden  Dr Charles Hilaire Rivard, Canada
Dr Thami Benzakour, Morocco  Dr Simon Henman, Slovenia  Prof Galal Zaki Sad, Egypt
Prof Cody Bungen, Denmark  Prof Maurice G. Hinsenkamp, Belgium  Assoc Prof Ugur Say, Turkey
Dr Vincent Nik-Hong Chan, Hong Kong  Dr Yukihide Iwamoto, Japan  Dr Frederic A. Schaud, Belgium
Dr Jack Chun Yu Cheung, Hong Kong  Dr Dr Bernard Jeanneret, Switzerland  Dr Chadwick F. Smith, USA
Dr Ho Man Cheung, Hong Kong  Dr Andre Kaufin, Switzerland  Dr Otto Spenner, Denmark
Dr So Young Chun, Hong Kong  Prof Dr Martin Kramer, Austria  Prof Kjeld Soballe, Denmark
Prof Esed Can, Turkey  Prof Jozou Lorenz, Denmark  Prof Charles Sorbe, Canada
Prof Dr Jochen Eulert, Germany  Mr Ian J. Leslie, United Kingdom  Prof Se-Li Suk, Korea
Dr Peter Edelmann, Germany  Prof Ping-Chung Leung, Hong Kong  Prof Dr Miklos Atalas Szendoi, Hungary
Prof Dr Sc. Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, Cuba  Dr Hooshang Li, Denmark  Prof Karl-Goran Thorgren, Sweden
Dr Federico Fernandez Palazzi, Venezuela  Prof Keith Dip-Kai Luk, Hong Kong  Prof Vilmos Vecsei, Austria
Prof Dr Reinhold Ganz, Switzerland  Prof Dr Friedrich Paul Magel, Switzerland  Dr Jose Batista Valpo, Brazil
Mr Robert Grim, United Kingdom  Prof Takashi Nakamura, Japan  Mr Geoffrey Walker, United Kingdom
Mr Anthony J. Hall, United Kingdom  Prof Hakan Omeroglu, Turkey  Dr Kang-San Yu, Hong Kong

The addition to the SICOT information system of a new feature which allows the SICOT Office to forward the papers and receive the scores on line has helped to reduce the length of the peer review process in a significant manner. Reviewers have been very responsive and cooperative and they each deserve a personal and most sincere thank you for their contribution to the scientific programme of the Conference!

The second SICOT Diploma Examination

For the second time SICOT will hold a Diploma Examination. It will take place during the SICOT/SIROT Third Annual International Conference in Havana, Cuba, on 25 and 26 September 2004:

- on 25 September 2004, the written exam will last two hours and will be comprised of 200 MCQ Questions based on the Hyperguide;
- on 26 September 2004, in the oral part which will also last two hours and which is based on the Intercollegiate FRCS of the UK and Ireland, each candidate will be examined by two examiners in each of the four major subjects:
  - Adult Orthopaedics and Pathology,
  - Trauma,
  - Children and Hands,
  - the Basic Sciences.

Candidates, who should be Associate Members of SICOT, are invited to register before 1 June 2004 by filling in the on-line registration form which is available from the SICOT web page at: http://www.sicot.org/?page=sicotexam and paying a registration fee of EUR 300 into the SICOT bank account IBAN BE30 2100 2424 5911. A confirmation will be sent from the SICOT Office as soon as registration is complete.

page 6
The deadline for abstract submission has now passed and we are currently working on the evaluation procedure. This meeting is receiving major interest from all over the world; topics range from biomaterials and tissue engineering to traumatology and musculoskeletal reconstruction. Each paper is being scored by two independent reviewers and we expect to come up with a final programme in due time.

We have been very successful with the online abstracts.

The Conference will host a Trainees’ Meeting (31 papers) and SIROT Meeting (22 papers) as well as the SICOT Meeting (374 papers). The programme will be divided into poster presentations, oral presentations and symposia with a number of invited speakers and four plenary lecturers. Industry partners are going to offer industrial workshops during lunch time.

Special focus symposia are being organised on orthopaedic oncology, adolescent spinal deformity, the controversy between external fixator in trauma and deformity and effects of early hip and knee osteotomies.

Significant interest in the annual as well as the triennial meetings demonstrates the vitality of SICOT. Please talk to your colleagues and recruit them for membership.

Looking forward to meeting you in Havana.

Abstracts received on-line for Havana AIC 2004

Trainees’ Meeting: 32
SIROT: 21
SICOT: 59
Biomaterials and tissue engineering: 29
Early hip and knee osteotomies: 28
External fixator in trauma and deformity: 28
Lumbar spine: 39
Orthopaedic oncology: 22
Osteoporosis and its impact on orthopaedics today: 19
Paediatric orthopaedics: 28
Paediatric spine: 12
Shoulder arthroscopy and elbow surgery: 28
Sports traumatology: 35
Total: 352
A collaboration between the Young Surgeons Committee and the Bone and Joint Decade

The Young Surgeons Committee has joined forces with the Bone and Joint Decade to report on the highlights of the SICOT/SIROT Third Annual International Conference, from 26 to 29 September 2004 in Havana, Cuba. To accomplish this we have an immediate need for volunteer “Conference Reporters” to attend selected scientific sessions at the conference and write brief reports on what was presented. Applications are requested from Associate Members, and two will be chosen to take advantage of this unique opportunity to work in a journalistic capacity and play an active role at the Annual International Conference. The Young Surgeons Committee developed this strategy as it provides multiple benefits for both the Society and the member: it will create valuable content for the SICOT World portal, it strengthens cooperation and networking between SICOT and the BJD, and it creates substantial economic support for two young surgeons to attend the SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference. Furthermore, SICOT members who are unable to attend this meeting will have an opportunity to inform themselves on the topics presented and the discussion led at the sessions.

If chosen, your responsibilities will be to attend select scientific sessions at the meeting (four per day), briefly interview the presenters, and then compile a short ‘news story’ highlighting the key points of the session. Additional literature research and/or further communication by e-mail with presenters is usually necessary. The material will be uploaded to the SICOT World portal as well as the BJD Musculoskeletal e-Operative Internet portals (MSeC), thus the target audience will be trainees and professionals working in musculoskeletal health. Ideally, applicants should have some experience with medical/scientific writing in orthopaedics, for example, an individual who has had articles published in recognised scientific magazines or journals, but all interested Associate Members should get in touch. Copy deadlines are strict: 10-14 days after the end of the conference, as we aim to post the material on-line in the shortest possible time.

The Benefits: In return for your work during the four-day conference to write the SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference Highlights, we will pay your meeting registration fee, including attendance to the ‘Trainees’ Meeting’, your roundtrip economy air travel to Havana, as well as your hotel for the duration of the meeting.

To Apply: If you are interested in applying for this unique opportunity, please send a short e-mail attaching your CV and a sample of your writing if you have one to Dr Cyril Toma, Chairman of the SICOT Young Surgeons Committee, at youngsurgeons@sicot.org before 30 July 2004.

---

Young Surgeons Committee
Chairman: Dr Cyril D. Toma
Deputy Chairman: Prof Rocco P. Pitto
Members: Dr Bartholomeo Allende Jr, Dr Khaled M. Emara, Prof Patricia M. Fucs, Dr Jonathan P. Garino, Prof Keith Dip-Kei Luk, Assoc Prof Hiroyuki Tsuchiya
Dr Tudor Nedelcu, a 29 year old orthopaedic surgeon from the Department of Paediatric Orthopaedics, Emergency Hospital for Children and “Carol Davila”, Medical University Bucharest, Romania is one of only three recipients of the newly founded prestigious Articulum Fellowship, funding basic science research in the field of musculoskeletal medicine. Dr Tudor Nedelcu is receiving his training in Paediatric Orthopaedics.

In Romania the residency programmes in orthopaedic surgery can either be in adult or in paediatric orthopaedics. The training takes a total of six years.

Dr Nedelcu joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, at the Vienna Medical University, Austria on 1 April 2004 to start his research work on the subject of “Apoptotic and Antiapoptotic Proteins and their Role as Prognostic and Predictive Factors in Human Osteosarcoma and Chondrosarcoma”.

The Articulum Fellowship provides opportunities for young fellows with an interest in arthritis and pain to conduct a research project. The research project will be undertaken at the facility of an Articulum member. The Fellowship will provide funding of up to USD30,000 to support a fellow to undertake a research project for up to 12 months.

Funding is primarily intended for salary support. Applicants must have a degree in medicine and some speciality training in rheumatology, musculoskeletal medicine, orthopaedic surgery, or acute/chronic pain management. Due to the overwhelming interest in the fellowship the number of fellows has been increased to incorporate up to eight individuals.

Applications will be evaluated by members of Articulum, which is composed of internationally respected research experts in the fields of arthritis and pain.

For details of the Articulum members’ centres and research projects available and to find out if you are eligible for the Fellowship, please click on www.articulumfellowships.eu.

We are very glad to welcome Dr Nedelcu as a future Associate Member of SICOT. Dr Nedelcu’s interest in our Society was prompted through the activities of the Young Surgeons Committee where he would like to play an active role in the national chapter of SICOT Romania upon his return to his home country.

A new Picture Quiz series!

The associations participating in the Pfizer/Bone and Joint Decade portal have decided to start a monthly Picture Quiz series. SICOT is pleased to launch this series in the SICOT World portal (www.sicotworld.org). The first quiz has been provided by Ray Armstrong, from ILAR.

It is simple: take a look at the picture and make a diagnosis. There are 2 prizes to win.

One winner will be the person who submits the correct answer (this must be in less than 10 words). The other one will be the one with the most creative answer. There are no rules except that the answer must be entertaining or amusing.

Come and visit the SICOT World portal and join in the quiz!
SICOT, a recognised partner for OECD

SICOT has been invited to participate in the Forum 2004 “Health of Nations” of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which at the time this goes to press is planned to take place in Paris, France, from 12 to 13 May 2004.

The OECD Forum is a multi-stakeholder summit offering business, labour and civil society an opportunity to discuss key issues of the 21st century with government ministers and leaders of international organisations.

The Forum 2004 will deal with issues such as: ageing and health; equity and access to health care; health, human rights and development; obesity and health; technology and the informed patient; infectious diseases; and the world economy, the progress in multilateral trade negotiations and sustainable development.

The 12-13 May Forum will prepare for the annual OECD Ministerial Summit and this year’s first ever meeting of OECD Health Ministers (13 to 14 May).

United Nations Steering Committee on global road safety

The first plenary session ever held to discuss global road safety in the United Nations General Assembly took place on 14 and 15 April 2004. The spreading knowledge of the economic effects and humanitarian tragedies of road trauma has led to the commitment of the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation to reversing the rising trend. SICOT has seen its continuing role to be improving the education and skills of the surgeons who deal with road accidents. Prof Charles Sorbie was invited to participate, having helped to promote, when President of SICOT, trauma symposia in Nairobi, Kenya and Taipei, Taiwan.

Read a full account of the meeting in our web pages: http://www.sicot.org/?page=newsletter

News from Asia: World Health Day 2004 on road safety in Lahore, Pakistan

On 7 April 2004, under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO), hundreds of organisations all over the world hosted events to help raise awareness of road traffic injuries, leading to grave consequences and enormous costs to society. Within this framework a seminar on Road Traffic Accident and Injury Prevention was held in the main auditorium of King Edward Medical College, in Lahore, Pakistan. In addition to the World Health Organisation representatives, the collaborators included SICOT represented by Prof Syed Muhammad Awais, the Bone and Joint Decade, the Pakistani Government and Punjab University.
News from IFPOS President

There is a great enthusiasm for IFPOS and the Third IFPOS Meeting to be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil from 3 to 6 September 2004, a combined IFPOS and Brazilian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society Meeting.

During the last EPOS Meeting in Geneva an IFPOS Board meeting was held, which was well attended. IFPOS members will also be attending the POSNA St-Louis Meeting.

The scientific programme for Brazil is near completion, with a good number of papers submitted. Papers are rated blind by the IFPOS Scientific Committee, the chairman being Prof. Michael Goldberg, from USA. The Scientific Committee is selecting high quality papers as well as original posters.

We must make an all out effort in support of our Brazilian colleagues who have taken upon themselves the organisation of the Third IFPOS combined Meeting and I wish to thank all International Presidents and Secretaries for their support during my tenure as IFPOS President and hope to see you in Brazil.

For more details on the Third IFPOS Meeting see the web site: www.ifpos2004.com.br

News from Africa:
First Malian Orthopaedic Meeting in Bamako

SOMACOT is a new orthopaedic African association. Its first meeting was held last March in Bamako, Mali, for three days.

This meeting gathered together nearly 300 participants from neighbouring countries. The opening was honoured by the President of the Republic and eight invited guest lecturers. Among them, Dr Thami Benzakour represented SICOT.

In the programme, two symposia were proposed on road traffic injuries and the complications of traditional care.

During an interview given to the national television service, the SICOT Treasurer launched an appeal to fasten seat belts on all occasions so as to reduce the severity of road traffic accidents.

Dr Thami Benzakour offering a commemorative plate, on behalf of SICOT, to Prof Abdou Touré, President of the First Malian Orthopaedic Meeting in Bamako, 29 March 2004
Third SICOT/SIROT Annual International Conference

26-29 September 2004
Havana, Cuba

Awards and scholarships awarded at the Closing Ceremony

The Lester Lowe/SICOT Scholarship
Trainees under the age of 35 are eligible.
The prize money is up to USD1,000.

The SICOT Poster Awards (10)
The three best posters are granted EUR500 each.

The SICOT Oral Presentation Awards (10)
The three best oral presentations are granted EUR500 each.

SICOT Trainees Best Paper Award
The prize is three years’ free membership to SICOT.

Local Organising Committee

Prof Dr Sc R. Alvarez Cambras,
Conference President
Lic. M. Rubio Bauzá,
Coordination and supervision

Dr R. Alemán López
Dr R. Alvarez Nuñez
Dr G. Arango García
Dr R. Candebat Candebat
Dr A. Ceballos Mesa
Dr O. M. de Cárdenas Centeno
Dr L. Fleites Lafont
Dr N. García Mesa
Dr A. A. Herrera Milera
Dr M. E. Jacobo Nuñez
Dr A. López Alvarez
Dr L. O. Marrero Rivero
Dr L. Martínez Barceló
Dr R. Murgadas Rodríguez
Ms E. Ortiz García
Dr R. Roberto Rubino
Dr J. L. Vidal Ramos
Dr J. D. Zayas Guillot