Croatian Medical Journal

CMJ - March 1996 (Volume 37, Number 3)

External Fixator in the Treatment of War Bone Fractures

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Aim. Analysis of the course of bone repair in bone fractures caused by high-velocity projectiles in 557 patients.
Method. External fixation, a combination of external fixation and minimal internal osteosynthesis, and delayed internal osteosynthesis were used in the treatment of fractures. Primary osteosynthesis was indicated only exceptionally. The choice of the method depended on the type and severity of soft tissue damage, according to a three-grade classification.
Results. Most complications requiring reoperation occurred in fractures managed by external fixation alone. There was no lethal outcome either in patients with isolated bone fractures or in those with war polytrauma with a predominant extremity bone fracture.
Conclusion. Proper stabilization of fractures is of utmost importance for the normal course of fracture healing. A selective approach should therefore be adopted in selecting the proper method of treatment for war bone fracture. Division of the wounded into three groups proved very helpful.

Key words: external fixators; fracture fixation; fractures