The Clinical Utility of Immediate Post-Operative PACU Plain Film Radiographs following Uncomplicated Open Latarjet Procedure – An Institutional Series of Consecutive Patients

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The open Latarjet procedure involves transfer of the coracoid and conjoint tendon to the anterior glenoid face to restore glenoid bone stock and provide stability through the sling effect of the conjoint tendon.

Although limited, plain film radiographs following OL procedure continue to be considered an informative radiological assessment of stabilization screw position and fixation of coronoid transfer.

Reflection on the clinical utility of such XRs as routine must be considered as they are costly of time, money and resources, whilst also exposing patients to additional radiation.
The purpose of this study was to analyze whether routine immediate post-operative radiographs following uncomplicated OL procedures impacted clinical decision-making in the immediate post-operative setting in our institution.

Our hypothesis was that PACU radiographs in uncomplicated cases would have minimal clinical impact.
METHODS

- This was a retrospective review of outcomes. The operation notes from all of the Latarjet procedures performed by fellowship trained shoulder surgeons from March 2017 to March 2020 were analyzed.

- Radiographs taken immediately post-operatively in post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) were reviewed to determine if any reported radiographic findings impacted on clinical decision-making in the immediate post-operative setting.
METHODS

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

• Descriptive statistics were gathered using SPSS version 22 (IBM Corp. Released 2013. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.).

• A p-value of < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.
A total of 337 patients underwent an X-ray in APCU immediately following uncomplicated open Latarjet procedure under in our institution were reviewed. The mean age was 22.9 years ± 4.2 years. There were 332 male patients (98.5%) and 5 females.
No patients had abnormal findings on their PACU x-ray images. In the immediate post-operative period, only 2 patients required a revision surgery. These were both debridement and irrigations for wound infection and hematoma formation. This
LIMITATIONS

• Retrospective

• No follow-up imaging

• Lack of control group
CONCLUSION

- Ultimately our study found that immediate PACU x-ray following open Latarjet procedures has minimal clinical utility and no impact on clinical decision-making. Results suggest that this imaging pathway after open Latarjet may be costly of resources on an institutional level while ultimately having little impact clinically.
Thank you for your attention