

Conversion to reverse shoulder arthroplasty 51 years after shoulder arthrodesis: A case report

Dogger MN *et al.* Shoulder arthrodesis to reverse shoulder arthroplasty

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Patients with a shoulder arthrodesis generally experience restriction in range of motion and limitations in activities of daily living. In addition, up to one-third of the patients deals with serious peri scapular pain. The conversion of a shoulder arthrodesis in a reverse shoulder arthroplasty has been described as an effective treatment to achieve better function and decreased pain, although literature is sparse.

We present the case of a conversion from a painful shoulder arthrodesis to reverse shoulder arthroplasty, after a 51 year interval.

CASE SUMMARY

A 71-year old male presented with severe peri scapular pain and limited function 51 years after shoulder arthrodesis. Preoperative workup showed a normal bone stock of the glenoid and an intact axillary nerve, but atrophic posterior part of the deltoid muscle. The shoulder arthrodesis was successfully converted to reverse shoulder arthroplasty. Twelve months postoperative the patient was very satisfied. He has no pain at rest, nor with exercise and experienced definite improvements in activities of daily living, despite his limited range of motion.

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CONCLUSION: **Conversion from glenohumeral arthrodesis to reverse total shoulder arthroplasty** in a patient with a functioning deltoid and adequate **bone stock** may provide symptomatic relief and improved function in the setting of symptomatic **glenohumeral arthrodesis refractory** to conservative measures.

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CASE: A 41-year-old woman presented 5 **years after** glenohumeral **arthrodesis**. She experienced symptomatic relief following **conversion to reverse** total **shoulder arthroplasty**, regaining nearly full passive range of motion and >50% of normal active forward flexion, abduction, internal rotation, and external rotation.

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Results: There were **fifty-one** men and **fifty-one** women in each group, with a mean age of 71.6 **years** in the hemiarthroplasty group and 72.6 **years** in the **reverse shoulder arthroplasty** group.

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