



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

Manuscript NO: 79608

Title: Can immediate postoperative radiographs predict outcomes in pediatric clubfoot?

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05088164

Position: Associate Editor

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Romania

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-29

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-30 17:03

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-02 13:54

Review time: 1 Day and 20 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study proved a correlation between the post-operative radiographic parameters and functional outcome after Ponseti's method in children with idiopathic clubfoot. This was a debatable issue starting with Ponseti, who claimed that radiography could not predict the prognosis. The authors proved that the tibioclacaneal angle could predict the functional outcome 1-year post-surgery. The authors correctly presented the limitations and strengths of their study. A significant limitation is the number of patients included in the study, and some data could be missed as the analysis was done only on ossified bone. Anyway, they used the functional outcome assessment as a better way to evaluate the evolution and also, the use of lateral view was a good option. The conclusion of this study is supported by the data presented: the tibioalacaneal angle analyzed immediately post-Achilles tenotomy and casting with a cut-off of 70 degrees could predict the fair-to-poor functional outcome with very good sensitivity (almost 90%). Analyzing the manuscript, here are some considerations that support the quality of writing: - Title: the title, presented as a question, covers the problem presented and analyzed in the paper. The answer to the questions represents the conclusions of this study. - Abstract: the abstract summarizes and reflects the study correctly. It seems a little too long but covered the most important aspects of the study well. One recommendation: replace the last sentence from Background to the methods. - Key words: the keywords reflect the focus of the manuscript; probably, it would be better to name also the tibioalacaneal angle. - Background: The data presented in the Introduction describe well the problems studied and the importance of this research from a practical point of view. Better to move the paragraph with the method used in the Materials and methods section. - Methods: The methods are well presented: inclusion and exclusion criteria, clinical and



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radiographic evaluation and statistical methods. - Results: The results are well presented, including tables and figures. Table 1 may be improved by presenting only one gender (the rest is straightforward) and compliance with bracing (only numbers for yes). Figure 1 may be enlarged to be better viewed (there could be 2x2 instead of 4 images inline). - Discussion: Regarding the discussions of the results, the authors interpret the findings adequately and appropriately and discuss the scientific significance of their results, corroborating them with the other studies in the field. - References: The authors cited 24 papers in the field, only 5 more recent than 5 years. Maybe that aspect could be improved by adding some more recent papers. - Quality of manuscript organization and presentation: The manuscript is well organized, and the English language needs no correction. - Ethics statements: The study was reviewed and approved by the local ethical review committee, and informed consent was obtained from the legal guardian of the subjects.



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Reviewer's code: 03067229

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DSc

Professional title: Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-29

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-11 07:06

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-20 10:48

Review time: 9 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Publication requirements met. The results are of practical importance. There are no comments or remarks.