

3 Object of investigation

The object of this study was to compile a brief review of the literature on clubfoot and to analyse the material of the Central Hospital of Tampere (the CHT) consisting of patients with TEV. In respect of the literature, equality of materials and a mutual understanding as to methods were sought.

The special aim of the study was

1. To characterize the clubfoot as it appeared in the area of Tampere, Finland, and to ascertain
2. Whether or not a primary operation carried out in the first days of life was preferable to conservative treatment or to conservative treatment combined with a delayed operation.
3. Whether early operative treatment of clubfoot was burdened with special risks concerning the patient's general health or the foot itself.
4. Whether any difference emerged in results between individuals operated once and those who underwent two or more operations.
5. Whether there was any difference between boys and girls in regard to the primary degree of the deformity and/or the results of therapy.