

7 Conclusions

The following conclusions seemed to emerge from the present investigation.

1. The character of TEV as it appears in the area of Tampere, Finland did not essentially deviate from that described in the literature.
2. The primary operation was, in grade 3 and 4 feet, preferable to conservative therapy. When the conservative therapy failed, later operations could not any more restore the results to an acceptable level, but produced even lower scores than the conservative treatment alone. A reservation, due to the shorter follow-up in case of the primary operation must, however, be made. In grade 2, the postural clubfeet, the results were satisfactory with conservative therapy.
3. The early operative treatment of TEV within the first neonatal days did not hazard the patient's general health or the result of the clubfoot therapy.
4. The results in patients who underwent two or more operations were definitely poorer than those achieved with the first and final operative attempt.
5. There was no difference between boys and girls as to the primary degree of TEV. The result in girls was definitely better than in boys in the case of the size of the foot. In regard to function, shape and psychosocial aspects no sex difference emerged.