

N. SILFVERSKIÖLD:

INTERTROCHANTERIC OSTEOTOMY

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DISCUSSION

Bentzon, P. G. K.:

I employ the intertrochanteric osteotomy in cases of fracture of the column of the femur healed with pseudarthrosis. I perform the osteotomy by means of a Gigli saw that is placed round the bone with a special conductor reminding of the one employed for Parham's band. The lower fragment is abducted a little and pushed in under the head. I have found no occasion for fixation by means of bone sutures or in any other way. When, after the osteotomy, the resection surfaces are brought into the given position they have no tendency to displacement in the hip plaster cast. I do not perform chiselling and downward transplantation of the greater trochanter.

After healing of the osteotomy, the greater trochanter is in a position that affords good working conditions for the abductors of the hip.

(Demonstration of roentgenograms taken before and after the operation.)

Waldenström, H.:

In suitable cases—for instance, for correction of marked displacement in healed epiphysiolysis—I also perform intertrochanteric osteotomy and, like Bentzon, in cases of adults I perform the osteotomy with Gigli saw.

A great deal has been said the risk of slipping, but this is prevented by the sawn and well-fitting wound surfaces which

are sewn together by means of two rust-proof wires. The holes are drilled in the ends of the bone and the wires are inserted immediately after the performance of the osteotomy, that is, while the osteotomy surfaces are flaps. Later on the wires are tightened with Sven Johansson's instrument, so that the surfaces are pressed firmly against each other.

Silfverschiöld mentioned that consolidation took place in all his cases within 4 weeks, so that the patients were then able to walk on the operated leg.

Certainly the consolidation takes place earlier when the osteotomy is performed in spongy bone, but we are not used to reckon with such a short consolidation time for the femur. It will be interesting, therefore, to hear something about the number of cases and how long after the operation the patients were examined. Here only one case was reported.