

## A prospective study to evaluate the efficacy of Total Knee Arthroplasty conducted at KLE's hospital and MRC Belgaum

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**Abstract:** A Total knee replacement is an established procedure in management of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. we are presenting our experience with this procedure .24 patients underwent TKA at KLE's hospital Belgaum between august 1999 to august 2001, of these three patients underwent bilateral TKR (total 27). The main indication for TKR was OA (17 patients) followed by RA (6 patients and one patient with post traumatic OA. the follow up period ranged from 6 months to 2 years. Pre operatively each patient assessed clinically and radiologically. The functional disability was recorded according to knee society clinical rating system in terms of pain, range of motion, instability and functional capacity. genu varus was present in 24 patients, maximum correction being 40 degree, fixed flexion deformity in 7 patients maximum was 40 degree. Knee instability was present in 2 patients and extension lag in 5 patients. The mean preoperative score was 45 which improved to 90 after surgery. A score of 85-100 represented excellent result. the complications included periprosthetic fracture of femur during manipulation for post-op stiffness of joint in one patient and foot drop following surgery in one patient which recovered within 4 weeks. On radiological examination over all alignment averaged 4.9 valgus, mean femoral angle was 95 degree and mean tibial angle 90 degree. Mean femoral flexion was 12 degree. Mean lateral tibial angle 87.5 degree. no radiolucencies seen after two year follow up. This report reveals 81.5% excellent, 14% good and 3.7% fair clinical result. there were no poor results.

**Keywords:** Total knee arthroplasty

### I. Introduction

Total knee replacement is an established procedure in management of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. we are presenting our experience with this procedure .24 patients underwent TKA at KLE's hospital Belgaum India between august 1999 to august 2001, of these three patients underwent bilateral TKR (total 27).

### II. Aims And Objectives:

- 1) To evaluate the efficacy of total knee replacement in terms of relief of pain, range of motion and stability of the joint
- 2) To study various complications of total knee arthroplasty
- 3) To compare our results with other standard series

### III. Methods And Material:

27 total knee arthroplasties were performed in 24 patients at KLES Hospital and MRC Belgaum, India from august 1999 to august 2001.

The age of the patient varied from 48 to 80 years. There were 16 females and 8 male patients. Out of 24 patients 17 had severe OA, 6 were having RA and one patient had post traumatic OA knee. 3 patients underwent bilateral tKA at interval of three to four months. Pre operatively each patient assessed clinically and radiologically. The functional disability was recorded according to knee society clinical rating system in terms of pain, range of motion, instability and functional capacity. As per knee society clinical rating system, 95% patients had moderate to severe pain, with average of knee flexion of 90 degree. 2 patients had instability of knee joint in both anteroposterior (less than 5mm) and mediolateral (6-9 degree). Fixed flexion deformity was present in 7 patients, 5 patients had 10° FFD, 15° FFD and 40° FFD each one patient. Extension lag of 10°-20° was seen in 5 patients. Total 24 knees had varus deformity out of which 9 had 30° varus, 11 had 20° varus, 3 had 10° varus and one patient had 40° varus deformity of the knee. The maximum varus deformity corrected measured 40°. Functionally 90% of patients were unable to walk more than 5 blocks and climb stairs.

The average preoperative knee society clinical score was 50 and functional score was 44. Spinal anaesthesia was given in 10 patients and general anaesthesia in 17 patients. The arthroplasties were performed under tourniquet control. Intra operative thromboprophylaxis with parental injection fraxiparine 2500 IU was given. The standard medial parapatellar approach was used. Adequate soft tissue release and soft tissue balancing was done prior to making bone cuts. Medial collateral ligament repair done in two patients. The implant used were posterior stabilized INSALL BURSTEIN II modular knee system. Average size of implant was, femoral

component 56mm with tibial component 56mm with tibial insert of size 56×10mm and patellar size 32mm. Standard postoperative physiotherapy protocol was followed from day 1. The patient were followed up at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 12 weeks, 6 months, 1 year and then 6 monthly.

In each follow up visit patients were assessed by using knee society clinical rating system. Radiological assessment was done according to knee society roentgenographic evaluation by taking anteroposterior and lateral views of knee joint to assess alignment of joint and implant loosening.

Statistical analysis used: The knee society clinical rating system

#### **IV. Results:**

In the 27 knees, the average preoperative knee society clinical score was 49 which improved to 89 and knee society functional score was 43 which improved to 75.

Knee society score of 85 to 100 represented excellent result. 22 knees (81.5%) were rated excellent, 4 knees (14.81% as good, and one knee (3.7%) as fair. There were no poor result.

Pre operatively all patients had moderate to severe pain. postoperatively 60% patients had mild pain at 3 weeks. At 6 weeks postoperatively only 10% patients had mild discomfort.

With knee society clinical rating system a knee score of 85 or more points were close to normal, taking into account factors such as age and general state of of the patient's health. Thus knees with an excellent rating were painless, stable, with at least 90° of flexion and did not in themselves limit the patient's activity. In some other older patients, a slight limitation in walking distance or the need to hold a rail when stair climbing was compatible with an excellent rating. However, more severe limitation of function, whatever the cause, as well as any deficiencies in the arthroplasty itself resulted in a lower rating.

In addition normal function was classified as, the ability to walk unlimited distance, climb up and down stairs normally without support and transfer from a chair without support.

Four knees had a good result, that is a score of 70 to 84 points. Two patients had collapsed bone graft of medial condyle with mild pain and difficulty with climbing stairs. Two patients had postoperative stiffness of knee joint, which required manipulation under general anaesthesia and contributed for reduced functional score. This over all function was again limited by age and other symptomatic knee.

One patient (3.7%) with a fair result had a preoperative diagnosis of osteoarthritis with gross osteoporosis and developed knee stiffness postoperatively due to poor patient compliance during the rehabilitation period. For which patient had close manipulation under GA. Due to gross osteoporosis patient had periprosthetic fracture of femur (Neer's type II) which was treated with close reduction and immobilization with A/K cast for 8 to 10 weeks leading to impaired functional capacity in terms of inability to walk unlimited, inability to climb up and down stairs normally and range of movement of knee joint less than 90°.

17 patients (71%) could walk an unlimited distance and climb up down stairs normally without supports. 6 patients (25%) could climb stairs with support and one patient could not climb the stairs with involved knee.

The average preoperative range of motion was 90° and the average postoperative range of motion was 110°. 18 knees had flexion of 115° or more, the maximum being 125°. Two knees had less than 90°. one knee had minor postoperative flexion contracture.

#### **V. Complications:**

There was one patient with peroneal nerve neuropraxia postoperatively with associated foot drop which was treated with foot drop splint and it recovered within 6 weeks.

One patient sustained periprosthetic supracondylar fracture of femur (Neer's type II) while doing manipulation under GA. Complications like DVT were absent due to thromboprophylaxis with S/C inj fragmin 2500 IU for at least one week post-op. Other complications like infection, vascular injury, skin necrosis, fat embolism, joint instability, patellar fracture were absent.

Radiologically in anteroposterior view, the tibial bone cement and cement implant interface were assessed for the presence of radiolucent areas, line of reactive sclerotic bone or both. Femoral tibial angles were measured.

In lateral view, femoral flexion, tibial angle, femoral component bone interface and patellar interface were assessed. Till the last follow up there were no radiolucent lines present beneath both tibial and femoral component. long term complications like implant failure, loosening, polythene wear can not be commented due to short duration of the study.

Maximum varus deformity correction was 40°, FFD being corrected was 40°. The overall alignment of the knee postoperatively was 4.9° valgus. mean femoral angle was 95° and mean tibial angle 90°. Mean femoral flexion was 12° and mean lateral tibial angle was 87.5°.

This study reveals 81.5% excellent, 14.81% good and 3.7% fair result. There were no poor results.

Compare to other studies conducted by Kray et al, Rand, Rosenberg, Bergman et al this study has shown comparable results.

## VI. Figures And Tables

Total pain, range of motion, stability score.

Study	Preoperative mean	Postoperative mean
Our study	49	89
Kray et al	32	93
Rand et al	35	84
Rosenberg et al	36	90
Bergman et al	43	83

Total functional score(knee society functional score) preoperatively it was 43 which improved to 75

Study	Preoperative mean	Postoperative mean
Our study	43	75
Kray et al	47	69
Rand et al	49	86
Rosenberg et al	52	92

## VII. Discussion:

The posterior stabilized Insall Burstein II knee prosthesis has enjoyed a proven track record of excellent results in total knee arthroplasty, This impression is further documented by the fact that 81% of our patient scored 85 points or better for a rating of excellent by knee society scoring system.

In 1978, Insall-burstein posterior cruciate substituting design was developed to improve stair climbing ability, range of motion and to prevent posterior subluxation. Insall Burstein et al reported in 1978 with IB II design that 76 percent of the patients with posterior stabilized prosthesis could walk unlimited distance and climb stairs normally without support. in this study, 71% of the patients had ability to walk unlimited and could climb stairs normally without support.

The range of motion of the knee with a posterior stabilized IB II design was improved from average 90° to 110°. Insall et al in 1978 reported in his study that the posterior stabilised implant was the only prosthesis that resulted in substantial improvement over the preoperative range of motion(an average of 19°).

It was a consideration around 1979-80 that the ideal alignment of prosthesis should be 0°, a relative varus alignment. But it has been well proved that the ideal alignment should be between 5°-10° of valgus by Insall Burstein et al in 1978. In this study the overall average alignment of prosthesis was 4.9° valgus.

It has been recognized that the patella should routinely be resurfaced in RA, the practice of replacing it in OA patient is still somewhat controversial. In this study all 6 patients with RA underwent patellar resurfacing.

The success of TKA depends not only on surgical technique, prosthesis and material design but also on patient selection and a good rehabilitation programme. In this study the goal of rehabilitation programme were-

- Prevention of hazards of bed rest like DVT, pulmonary embolism and pressure sores etc
- To achieve adequate and functional range of movement.
- To train in functional daily living activities.

A rehabilitation specialist involved in preoperative planning and patient selection can influence the outcome of the surgery. In our study we carried out extensive preoperative selection and planning with postoperative extensive rehabilitation programme to achieve above mentioned goals which resulted in 81.5% excellent results.

There were no radiolucencies about the tibial and femoral component at the end of two years follow up perhaps the study is too short for these complications to make their presence felt.

The overall incidence of DVT after TKA without any form of mechanical or pharmaceutical prophylaxis has been reported from 40% to 88%. The risk of an asymptomatic pulmonary embolism may be as high as 10% to 20% with symptomatic PE reported in 0.5% to 3% of patients and mortality rate of 2%. In this study we started prophylaxis LMWH as a result there were no incidence of DVT or PE in a single patient.

However we had one patient with neuropraxia of peroneal nerve, which occurred primarily with correction of FFD of knee. the incidence of peroneal nerve palsy in Swedish knee arthroplasty project was 1.8% in Rheumatoid arthritis patients.

Supracondylar fractures occur infrequently after TKA(0.2% to 1%). Reported risk factors include anterior femoral notching, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, poor flexion, revision arthroplasty, rheumatoid arthritis,

revision arthroplasty and neurological disorders. We had one patient with periprosthetic fracture while doing manipulation under GA for poor flexion which was a result of patient's poor physiotherapy compliance with osteoporosis in elderly patient accounted for fair result.

Rand et al 1991, concluded that the most favourable variables for better and prolonged survival of TKA are, a primary arthroplasty, a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis and age of sixty years or more with a posterior stabilized knee prosthesis

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