

## **MID-TERM RESULTS OF TOTAL ANKLE PROSTHESES IN RHEUMATOID ARTHROPATHY**

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**BACKGROUND:** The standard treatment for end-stage arthritis of the ankle joint due to Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) has been an ankle fusion. Total ankle replacement (TAR) had a very poor reputation especially due to early loosening. However, in RA the loss of motion of the ankle joint after fusion has some disadvantages and in recent years much progress has been made in TAR. This study was undertaken to evaluate all TARs implanted with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) as indication. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** 58 total ankle prostheses were implanted in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (n=53) or Juvenile Inflammatory Arthritis (n=5) in 54 patients (4 bilateral). After a mean follow-up of 2.7 (range 1-9) years all patients were reviewed by two orthopaedic surgeons. Standard AP and lateral X-rays were made and a Kofoed ankle score was obtained; this is a clinical score ranging from 0-100. **RESULTS:** Two patients died of an unrelated cause, from the 52 patients (56 prostheses) who were alive, 51 implants (91%) were still in place after a mean follow up of 2.7 years (range 1-9 years) and showed no sign of loosening on the latest X-ray. The mean Kofoed ankle score at follow-up was 72.8 points (SD 16.2, range 21-92). Four patients showed a poor result (kofoed ankle score <50). The main reason for removal of the implant was infection. **CONCLUSION:** Midterm results of the currently used type TAR are satisfactory; the main reason for failure of the implant was infection.