

10 YEAR OUTCOME OF PAEDIATRIC COMPOSITE GRAFTING IN FINGERTIP INJURIES IN HOSPITAL SELAYANG

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Introduction: Fingertip injuries are the most common injuries affecting any given population. Fingertip injuries are more prone in paediatric population with a higher incidence as compared to older age groups. The objective of this study is to look at the outcome of fingertip injuries treated by composite grafting in a tertiary centre in Klang Valley.

Methodology: A total of 43 patients were included in this retrospective study. Data were collected from the Electronic Medical Records in The Selayang Hospital from a time of 1st of January 2010 till the 31st of December 2019. The data collected were analyzed and statistical methods applied. The age groups were divided into Category 1 (0 - 5), Category 2 (6 - 10), Category 3 (11 - 15) and Category 4 (16 - 19). The outcome is measured with successful uptake of graft and return of sensation.

Results: A total of 43 patients were included in this study with age group between 0 - 18 years of age. The highest number of injuries were in the Category 1 (0 - 5 years old) accounting for 41.8% (n = 18) and 23.3% in the Category 2 (6 - 10 years old). The second peak in the number of injuries is the Category 4 (16 - 19 years old) with 20.9% (n = 9). Successful overall uptake of graft is at 95.4% with the best outcome in the lower age group at 96.4% versus the older age group at 88.9%.

Conclusion: Composite grafting is a time-tested procedure for treating fingertip injuries in younger paediatric age group. The outcome in our centre in the younger age group is consistent with other reputable studies. A more interesting note is the better-than-expected outcome in the older age group. This is more significant as this age group is the 3rd the greatest number of patients.