

## Reclaiming Life After a Crush Injury: The Challenges of Hip Disarticulation

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### INTRODUCTION:

Hip disarticulation is a complex and infrequent surgery with high mortality rate, only performed as the last option in extreme cases as a life saving procedure. Indications for hip disarticulations are infection, tumor, trauma, and ischemia.<sup>[1]</sup> We report 1 case of crush injury of thigh that has been treated with hip disarticulation.

### REPORT:

Patient A is a 23-year-old lady with no known medical illness who had motor vehicle accident and sustained crush injury of left thigh with open book fracture of pelvis. She was immediately brought into emergency surgery for left hip disarticulation with supraacetabular pin external fixation. Disarticulation surgery was performed according to the techniques described in the literature. After isolating and ligating the femoral neurovascular bundle, the hip muscles were cut to the level of the femoral head, which was separated from the acetabulum.<sup>[2]</sup> Procedure was uneventful. After 1 year post left hip disarticulation, patient still unable to tolerate prosthesis however she can ambulate using axillary crutches and wheelchair. She is satisfied with the functional outcome, given the indication of the procedure was done to save her life.



**Figure 1:** AP view of left thigh



**Figure 2:** Lateral view of left thigh

### CONCLUSION:

Hip disarticulation is a major ablative surgery with obvious implications for limb functionality, as well as high rates of complications and mortality. However, when performed at the correct time and with good postoperative rehabilitation, this procedure can be life-saving and can ensure the return to the home environment with a certain degree of quality of life.

### REFERENCES:

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2. Sugarbaker PH, Chretien PB. A surgical technique for hip disarticulation. *Surgery.* 1981; 90 (3):546-53.