

Missing Talus – A Case Report

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INTRODUCTION:

Open total dislocation of the talus with extrusion out of the skin without attachments is an extremely rare injury. Like a puzzle piece forcefully displaced from its intricate setting, the talus, nestled within the delicate confines of the ankle mortise, can undergo dramatic expulsion following high energy trauma.

REPORT:

We report a case of open total enucleation of the talus. A 23-year-old male who was involved in a high energy trauma secondary to a motor vehicle accident presented to casualty with a severely contaminated lacerated wound at the anterolateral aspect of his left ankle. The talus was extruded and not found at scene. Ankle radiographs confirmed absence of the talus. A thorough debridement was carried out without skin closure. Temporary stabilization was performed using external fixator while an antibiotic-loaded cement filled the void left by the missing talus. Total 6 weeks of broad-spectrum antibiotics was administered. The cement was removed after six weeks followed by split-thickness skin graft (SSG) procedure for wound coverage, and subsequent ankle fusion was performed. At two-month follow-up, the patient was pain-free, and upon examination, the wound appeared clean with no evidence of pin tract infection. There was laxity in ankle joint, an additional month was allotted to evaluate the progress of ankle fusion.



Figure 1: X-ray on trauma date

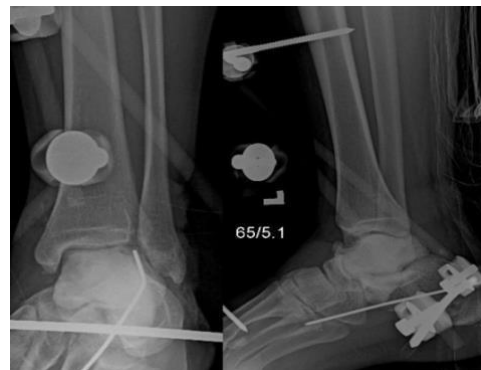


Figure 2: X-ray post cross ankle fixation



Figure 3: X-ray during follow-up

CONCLUSION:

Total extrusion of the talus, although rare, is one of the worst injuries of the rear foot because of the complications of avascular necrosis, infection, and poor functional outcome. In this case, timely surgical debridement, stabilization of the joint and utilization of antibiotic-loaded cement helped mitigate the risk of infection and promoted wound healing.

REFERENCES:

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