

Hemiarthroplasty for Hip Fracture

Introduction

Femoral neck fracture is a common injury of the elderly. It can occur even by minor trauma. The displaced femoral neck fracture needs surgical intervention. Metallic hemiarthroplasty is a common operation for replacement of the femoral head.

The possible complications of non-treated displaced femoral neck fracture include non-union, mal-union and avascular necrosis of femoral neck. The injured patient may need prolonged bed rest with subsequent complications.

The Procedure

- Spinal or general anesthesia
- Incision usually on outer side or back side of hip
- Femoral head replaced by a metal implant
- Sometimes drain is inserted

Risk and Complication

- Anesthetic risk
- Fracture, nerve damage, blood vessels damage leading to paralysis or loss of limb
- Sciatic nerve injury
- Wound infection
- Hip dislocation
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Deterioration of pre-existing disease leading to worsening of symptoms
- Others

Before the Procedure

- Correct and stabilize underlying medical problems
- Fasting few hours before operation
- Skin preparation +/- Shaving +/- Urinary catheter
- Blood and X-ray checking

After the Procedure

- Resume diet
- Oral or intramuscular analgesics
- Start sit out and walking exercise after drain removal and X-ray checking
- Off stitches about 2 weeks time

Alternative Treatment

- Long term bed rest
- Close reduction and internal fixation
- Excisional arthroplasty

Follow Up

- You should keep your wound clean and dry
- You must follow instructions strictly on taking medication, see the doctor as scheduled
- If you have any excessive bleeding, collapse, severe pain, fever or signs of wound infection such as redness, swelling or large amounts of stinking discharge, see your doctor immediately or attend the nearby Accident and Emergency Department

Remarks

The information contained is very general, the list of complications is not exhaustive and other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor.