

Commentary on Lateral Approach Total Ankle Joint Replacement with Concomitant Rearfoot Procedures: A Retrospective Short Term Outcomes Study

approach. Although a limited cohort, we did encounter 1 patient with post-operative medial gutter pain requiring further debridement [1-10].

Ankle-hind foot mean post-operative AOFAS score of 80 was previously reported in a recent cohort of 50 isolated lateral approach TAA patients. Following a final follow-up, our center reported a final mean AOFAS score of 89.25, exceeding previous reports of scores of 84.3 and 86.0 from an anterior approach without concurrent procedures. Our post-operative outcomes and low complication rate have been slightly increased compared to what has been previously reported in the literature at short term follow up. However, this did not meet statistical significance given the absence of preoperative AOFAS scores which is certainly a limitation of this study. Given there has not been any report on TAA with ancillary procedures, we suggest that this approach is safe and allows for more anatomic visualization of the native ankle mortise and allows for additional procedures to be performed through a lateral incision thus decreasing tourniquet time and time under anesthesia. Lateral approach TAA may be considered in patients requiring additional procedures, while certainly subsequent studies with longer follow up will be warranted as the data becomes available [11-27].

## References

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