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Fizjoterapia u chorych na wrodzone skazy krwotoczne w materiale oddziału rehabilitacji ogólnoustrojowej

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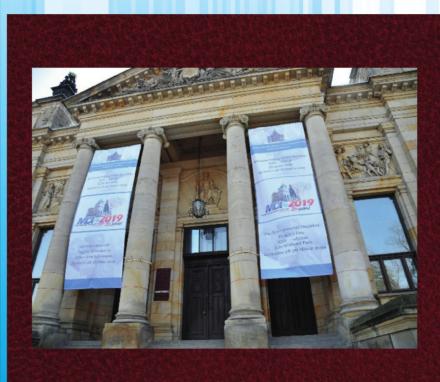


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Physiotherapy in patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis in the material of the systemic rehabilitation department

Fizjoterapia u chorych na wrodzone skazy krwotoczne w materiale oddziału rehabilitacji

Joanna Bukowska^{1(AB,D,E,F)}, Agata Pawełczyk^{2(A,B,C,D,E)}, Ireneusz Kotela^{3,4(A,D,E,F)}, Małgorzata Szarota^{5(A,B,E,F)}. Paweł Kaminiński^{1(D,E,F)} Magdalena Wilk-Frańczuk^{1,2(D,E,F)}. Rafał Trabka^{2(D,E,F)}

¹Małopolski Szpital Ortopedyczno-Rehabilitacyjny, Kraków / Proponuję Lesser Poland Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Hospital, Poland ²Klinika Rehabilitacji, Wydział Nauk o Zdrowiu, Uniwersytet Jagielloński Collegium Medicum, Kraków /

Rehabilitation Clinic, Faculty of Health Sciences, Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum, Krakow, Poland

³Klinika Ortopedii, Traumatologii i Medycyny Sportowej, Centralny Szpital Kliniczny MSWiA Warszawa

Department of Orthopaedics, Traumatology and Sports Medicine, Central Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Interior and Administration, Warsaw, Poland

⁴Instytut Fizjoterapii, Wydział Lekarski i Nauk o Zdrowiu, Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce / Institute of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce, Poland

⁵NZOZ RST Rehabilitacja, Kraków / NZOZ RST Rehabilitacja (Private Healthcare Institute), Krakow, Poland

Abstract

Aim. The objective of this study is to present the process and results of physiotherapy in patients suffering from congenital haemorrhagic diathesis, treated at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department of the Krakow Rehabilitation Centre and Orthopaedics (MSOR).

Material. The analysis involved 73 patients treated at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department between 2014 and 2019. The reason for admission was haemophilic arthropathy in the course of congenital haemorrhagic diathesis. Results. The results prove that early postoperative knee rehabilitation is effective in patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis after surgery. Deaver's functional scale: before rehabilitation, the mean result was 3.65, after rehabilitation it was 2.62. Muscle strength: the assessment of muscle strength according to the Lovett scale showed improvement in 64 patients (87,67%). Range of motion: in the extension test, the condition of 57 patients (78%) improved, the mean result was better by 7.52 degrees.

Conclusions. 1. The use of early physiotherapy in patients with haemophilia after knee endoprosthetics results in an improvement in gait function analysed according to Deaver's scale. 2. Early rehabilitation of patients with haemophilia after endoprosthetics results in an increase in the range of motion of the knee joint and in muscle strength. 3. It was also found that pain in the joint undergoing surgery was reduced thanks to the applied physiotherapy.

Key words:

physiotherapy, haemophilia, endoprosthetics, arthropathy

Streszczenie

Cel. Celem niniejszej pracy jest przedstawienie procesu i wyników fizjoterapii pacjentów chorych na wrodzone skazy krwotoczne, leczonych w Oddziałe Rehabilitacji Stacjonarnej Małopolski Szpital Ortopedyczno-Rehabilitacyjny (MSOR) w Krakowie.

Materiał. Analizie poddano 73 pacjentów leczonych na Oddziale Rehabilitacji Stacjonarnej w latach 2014–2019. Powodem przyjęcia była artropatia hemofilowa w przebiegu wrodzonych skaz krwotocznych

Wyniki. Wyniki dowodzą, że wczesna rehabilitacja pooperacyjna stawu kolanowego jest skuteczna w przypadku pacjentów z wrodzonymi skazami krwotocznymi po leczeniu operacyjnym. Skala funkcjonalna wg Deavera: przed rehabilitacją średni wynik wynosił 3,65, po rehabilitacji 2,62. Siła mięśniowa: ocena siły mięśniowej wg skali Lovetta wykazała poprawę u 64 pacjentów (87,67%). Zakres ruchu: w badaniu wyprostu uzyskano poprawę u 57 pacjentów (78%), średni wynik był lepszy o 7,52 stopnia.

Wnioski: 1. Zastosowanie wczesnej fizjoterapii u pacjentów z hemofilią po endoprotezoplastyce stawu kolanowego skutkuje poprawa funkcji chodu analizowanego wg skali Deavera. 2. Efektem podjęcia wczesnej rehabilitacji chorych na hemofilie po zabiegu endoprotezoplastyki jest zwiększenie zakresu ruchomości stawu kolanowego oraz wzrost siły mięśniowej. 3. Stwierdzono również zmniejszenie dolegliwości bólowych operowanego stawu dzięki zastosowanej fizjoterapii.

Słowa kluczowe:

fizjoterapia, hemofilia, endoprotezoplastyka, artropatia



Introduction

Haemophilia is a rare X-linked congenital disease characterized by a coagulation disorder resulting from the deficiency of coagulation factor VIII (in haemophilia A) or coagulation factor IX (in haemophilia B). According to the guidelines of the WFH (World Federation of Haemophilia), the number of people affected by this disease in the world is approximately 400,000. The prevalence of haemophilia in Poland is estimated at 1:12,300 inhabitants, while worldwide the highest percentage of patients with haemorrhagic diathesis amounts to 1:1,000–10,000 people, and concerns symptomatic von Willebrand disease [1, 2].

Disorders of the coagulation system cause symptoms in the form of excessive post-injury and postoperative bleeding, but also spontaneous bleeding into joints and muscles. Extravasation of blood to internal organs, body cavities or intracranial extravasation may be a direct threat to the patient's life. The severity and course of the disease depends on the level of deficiency of the coagulation factor, which defines one of three forms of the disease: severe (<1 IU/dL), moderate (1 to ≤5 IU/ dL) and mild (>5 to <50 IU/dL) [1, 2]. The areas most (70-80%) exposed to bleeding in the course of haemophilia include the following joints: knee joint – 50.9%, ankle joint – 42.8%, elbow joint - 38.5%, shoulder joint - 13.3%, hip joint - 11.3%, and the following muscles (10-20%): ilio-lumbar, calf and forearm muscles [3]. Repeated intra-articular and intramuscular haemorrhages gradually and irreversibly degenerate tissues of the musculoskeletal system, reducing the quality of life of patients. Extravasated blood, rich in iron ions, destroying the synovium, cartilage and bone tissue, leads to synovial hyperplasia, and in the long term, chronic inflammation and fibrosis. The progressive process of cartilage and bone tissue degeneration, defined as haemophilic arthropathy, causes pain which, due to its chronic nature, leads to limitation of joint mobility and contractures, disturbances in the joint axis and weakening of muscle strength. Changes in the arthropathic joint predispose to further haemorrhage, and bleeding episodes and their consequences result in reduced physical activity, imbalance and proprioception [4, 5].

Treatment of patients with haemorrhagic diathesis, despite the development of haematology and the increase in the availability of substitution treatment, is still problematic [6]. In literature the fundamental importance of prophylaxis in the form of coagulation factor concentrates is emphasized, at the same time demonstrating the need to create and develop highly specialized centres in Poland, gathering experienced medical staff - doctors, nurses, physiotherapists [1]. Orthopaedic treatment, including a number of procedures, such as chemical synovectomy, radiosynovectomy, arthroscopy, corrective osteotomy, arthrodesis, and in advanced arthropathy, endoprosthetics of the affected joints, only in combination with appropriate preparation, perioperative and haemolytic care and rehabilitation can minimize the risk of complications [7, 8].

The role of a physiotherapeutic team is not only to carry out rehabilitation after surgery, but also in the period after bleeding and as a preparation for surgical treatment. Due to the risk of haemorrhage and the recovery period after bleeding, people with haemophilia often limit their physical activity, which in



turn leads to a decline in physical condition, bone mass reduction and weakness. The main goal of rehabilitation is to reduce pain, improve joint function, restore normal range of motion, improve muscle strength and proprioception. Providing effective care for patients with haemophilia requires specialist treatment by a qualified therapeutic team [9].

While haemoarthropathy usually involves many areas, total knee arthroplasty is the most commonly used procedure to treat advanced joint damage. The characteristic anatomy of haemophilic patients (bone deformities, tissue contractures, muscle atrophy) make the procedure a technically demanding process, including preoperative and perioperative planning. High complication rate, including hematomas, intra-articular hematomas, damage to the popliteal artery, the risk of infection or loosening of the prosthesis, constitutes one of many problems that medics have to deal with. However, complete replacement of the knee joint, supported by an appropriate preoperative, surgical and rehabilitation protocol, constitutes effective intervention improving the quality of life of patients [10, 11, 12].

The objective of this study is to present the process and results of physiotherapy in patients suffering from congenital haemorrhagic diathesis, treated at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department of the Krakow Rehabilitation Centre and Orthopaedics (MSOR).

Material and methods

The analysis involved 73 patients treated at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department between 2014 and 2019. The reason for admission was haemophilic arthropathy in the course of congenital haemorrhagic diathesis: haemophilia A-64 patients (87.8%), haemophilia B-7 patients (9.5%), von Willebrand disease -2 patients (2.7%) (Figure 1). All patients underwent knee endoprosthetics, the most common of which was primary endoprosthetics (62) (Figures 3, 4), followed by revision of the endoprosthesis (10) and revision arthroplasty (1).

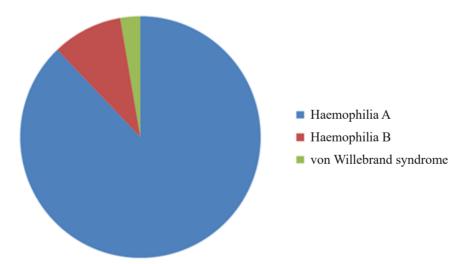


Figure 1. Distribution of haemorrhagic diathesis

After surgery at the Department of Orthopaedics of the MSOR, patients were referred to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department.



Objectives of the study:

- 1. Assessment of changes in gait function in patients with haemophilia after knee endoprosthetics according to Deaver's scale.
- 2. Analysis of the effects of physiotherapy in the field of muscle strength according to the Lovett scale and evaluation of the knee joint mobility based on a digital inclinometer test.
- 3. Observation of changes in pain in the knee joint after endoprosthetics according to the VAS scale.

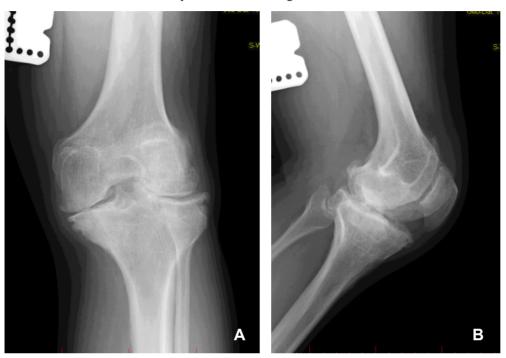


Figure 2. Haemophilic arthropathy of the knee joint, X-ray before surgery (a and b)

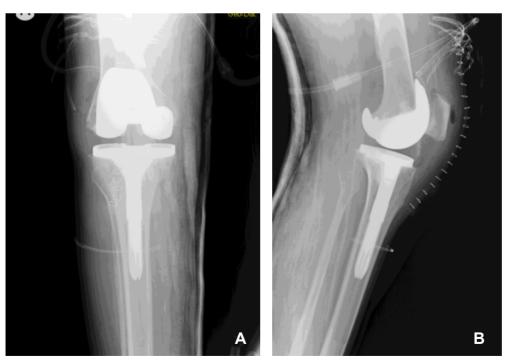


Figure 3. Haemophilic arthropathy of the knee joint, X-ray after surgery (a and b)



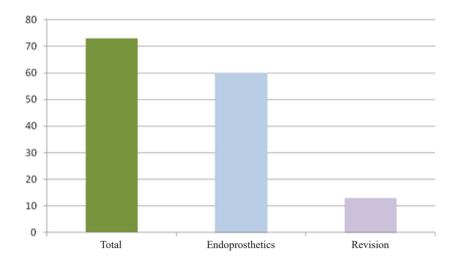


Figure 4. Characteristics of the performed knee joint surgeries

Detailed characteristics of the performed knee joint surgeries are presented in Figure 4.

The group of patients consisted of male patients only. The average age of the patients was 48 (minimum 21, maximum 80). The average hospitalization duration at the Department of Systemic Rehabilitation was 38 days (minimum 21, maximum 57). Most patients (23) spent 42 days at the department.

After the patients were admitted to the Department of Systemic Rehabilitation after the preliminary medical examination, a rehabilitation program was planned. Then, during the first therapy, the physiotherapist assessed the functional condition of the patient, taking into account:

- pain Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), the degree of pain from 0 (no symptoms) to 10 (maximum symptoms),
- Deaver's functional scale 8-step scale assessing locomotion abilities and the need to use aids while walking, ranging from 1 climbing stairs without assistance to 8 moving on an electric wheelchair,
- muscle strength the physiotherapist assessed the patient using the modified Lovett scale. In isolated positions, the muscles responsible for movement in the joint undergoing surgery were tested on a scale from 0° – no active muscle contraction up to 5° – normal strength,
- range of motion (ROM), measured with a digital inclinometer. The above-mentioned parameters were assessed twice: at the beginning and at the end of the rehabilitation process.

Physiotherapy was adjusted individually to the level and needs of each patient. Rehabilitation took at least 3 weeks, with the possibility of extending it by another 3 weeks, with the decision being made by the attending physician. The applied therapy was aimed at improving the patient's functional condition by reducing pain, increasing mobility in the joint undergoing surgery, eliminating contractures, increasing muscle strength, mobilizing postoperative scar, improving locomotive activities (learning to walk independently or with an orthopaedic aid, learning to climb stairs), improving balance and posture correction. On the other hand, physical therapy modalities were used to reduce pain, relax muscles, accelerate the healing of posto-



perative wounds and regenerate tissues. Table 1 shows the type and number of the most commonly used kinesiotherapy and physical therapy procedures.

Table 1. Type and number of the most frequently prescribed procedures

Kinesiotherapy	Number of orders
Individual general rehabilitation exercises	58
Learning locomotion activities	59
Splint for practicing passive movements CPM	60
Active exercises	42
Isometric exercises	43
Balance exercises	10

Physical therapy modalities	Number of orders
Local cryotherapy with liquid nitrogen	69
Magnetic field	55
Laser therapy	13
Whirlpool bath for lower limbs	14

Results

The results prove that early postoperative knee rehabilitation is effective in patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis after surgery. The analysis of the individual parameters used to measure the condition before and after therapy is presented below.

After rehabilitation, pain reduction in the joints undergoing surgery was observed. 68 patients (93.15%) reported improvement, 5 patients (6.85%) said that pain had not changed. Among the patients who did not notice any change, there was one with pain at level 7, one with pain at level 2–3, and three with no pain before and after therapy (VAS 0). The mean VAS score before rehabilitation was 6, and after it was 2.8 (Figure 5).

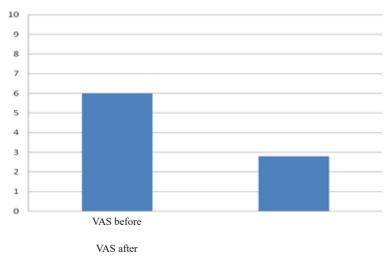
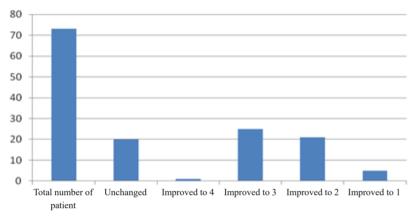


Figure 5. Average pain scores according to the VAS scale before and after rehabilitation



Deaver's functional scale

Before rehabilitation, the mean result was 3.65, after rehabilitation it was 2.62. The average improvement was 1.03. In 5 patients the result improved by 1 (6.85%), which means full fitness, both while walking and climbing stairs. In 21 patients the result improved by 2 (28.76%), meaning that the patients could walk independently and move up stairs with assistance. In turn, in 25 patients the final result changed to 3 (34.24%), thus enabling walking without assistance. In this group, the greatest functional progress can be observed, because the patients do not need crutches or other aids while walking, which significantly increases their level of participation. Points 1 to 3 show a high level of independent functioning in everyday life. In one patient (1.36%) improvement to 4 was observed. There were no changes in 20 patients, with 10 patients (50%) in this group maintaining the score from 1 to 3, and 9 patients being assessed as 4 before and after rehabilitation. One patient after



Rycina 6. Wyniki w skali funkcjonalnej Deavera po rehabilitacji Figure 6. Results on Deaver's functional scale after rehabilitation

lower limb amputation was in a wheelchair and his result did not change (Figure 6).

Muscle strength

The assessment of muscle strength according to the Lovett scale showed improvement in 64 patients (87.67%). The average muscle strength before rehabilitation was 3.0, and

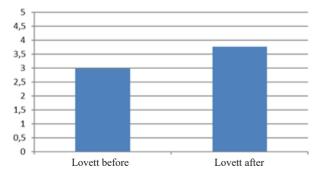


Figure 7. Average muscle strength before and after rehabilitation



3.77 after therapy (Figure 7). Exercise showed no improvement in 8 people and deterioration was observed in 2.

Range of motion

In the extension test, the condition of 57 patients (78%) improved, the mean result was better by 7.52 degrees (Figure 8). No changes were observed in 13 patients; however, in 10 patients the knee extension before and after was 0 degrees, so it was the physiological range according to the SFTR method of measuring and recording joint motion (for the knee joint 0-0-130). Reduction in extension was observed in 3 people. The flexion score showed an improvement in 70 patients (95.9%) with an average improvement of 21.37

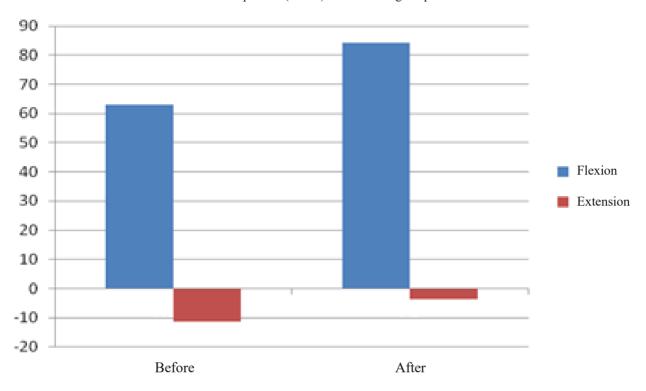


Figure 8. Average range of extension and flexion mobility before and after therapy

degrees. The range of motion did not change in 3 people. There were no patients whose range of flexion deteriorated after treatment.

Discussion

In the treatment of patients with severe haemophilic arthropathy, surgical treatment of affected joints becomes the method of choice. Despite the greater risk of complications (infections, aseptic loosening), endoprosthetics reduces pain, improves joint function and increases patient satisfaction. This is confirmed by retrospective studies conducted by A. C. Strauss et al. The authors emphasize the role of an individual assessment of the risk-benefit ratio based on the consultation with a haematologist and orthopaedist [13].

Pain reduction, which is the most spectacular effect of surgical treatment presented in this study, can be compared to the results obtained in the studies conducted by J.A. Anderson et al. These Australian scientists present reduction in pain measured on the VAS scale in patients after TKR (Total Knee Replacement) from 7.49 (SD: 2.13) to 0.46 (SD: 1.35). In the case of assessing patients of the MSOR reha-



bilitation department, pain was reduced from 6.0 to 2.8. The authors emphasize the significant satisfaction of patients due to the improvement of joint function, that is, an increase in the range of motion compared to the condition before surgery, and thus, increased comfort while walking and performing daily activities [14]. Similar conclusions are presented by other researchers, thus confirming the effectiveness of surgical treatment in haemophilia [15, 16, 17]. Retrospective analysis of the results of rehabilitation of patients with haemophilia after endoprosthetics of the knee joint in the material of the MSOR rehabilitation department shows an improvement in the range of motion (95.9% flexion/78% extension) and an increase in muscle strength of the limb undergoing surgery in 87.67% of the patients participating in the study.

In order to achieve the best possible results of surgical treatment in patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis, early and comprehensive postoperative physiotherapy plays a key role [18, 19, 20]. The planned therapeutic intervention at the Krakow Rehabilitation Centre and Orthopaedics allows for the rehabilitation process to begin on the second day, which in most cases is continued at the inpatient rehabilitation department. Therapy is carried out in close cooperation of a physician specializing in rehabilitation, a physiotherapist, an orthopaedist under the supervision of a haematologist. Thanks to an individual approach and functional therapy, it is possible to achieve faster recovery and improve the patient's mobility. This is evidenced by the results of Deaver's functional scale obtained by patients after rehabilitation. In the case of 93% of the patients participating in the study the gait function improved, including 31.87% of patients who acquired the ability to walk without orthopaedic aids. Analysing own research, the authors found that Deaver's scale is not sensitive enough to show differences in the postoperative phase, because it does not distinguish whether the patient is walking using one or two crutches. There was no correlation between the degree of functionality and the number of surgeries a patient has undergone. Such a result may suggest that the condition of a patient with haemophilic arthropathy is influenced by many factors related to the disease and confirms the need for an individual approach in planning procedures and conducting therapy. An important element of physiotherapy in patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis is training in the field of prioprioception and balance, emphasized by authors of many studies [21, 22]. This is a valuable guideline for centres treating these patients to introduce objective tools and scales for the assessment of these factors.

Taking into account the fact that in patients with haemophilia, arthropathic changes affect many joints and lead to disorders in the entire body posture, the assessment and treatment of patients should be holistic. This approach is implemented at the Krakow Rehabilitation Centre and Orthopaedics, where patients with congenital haemorrhagic diathesis are received to specialist orthopaedic treatment and physiotherapy.

Conclusions

- 1. The use of early physiotherapy in patients with haemophilia after knee endoprosthetics results in an improvement in gait function analysed according to Deaver's scale.
- 2. Early rehabilitation of patients with haemophilia after endoprosthetics results in an increase in the range of motion of the knee joint and in muscle strength.



Adres do korespondencji / Corresponding author

Rafał Trąbka

e-mail: rafaltrabka1@gmail.com

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