

LOWER LIMB VS UPPER LIMB REPLANTATIONS

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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS: TODAY, UPPER LIMB REPLANTATION IS A COMMON PROCEDURE IN MOST PLASTIC SURGERY UNITS. THE NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF LOWER LIMB AMPUTATIONS IS INCREASING, DUE TO HIGH-ENERGY TRAUMA IN ROAD ACCIDENTS AND WORK-RELATED INJURIES. THE INDICATION FOR LOWER LIMB REPLANTATION IS STILL CONTROVERSIAL. COMPARED WITH UPPER LIMB REPLANTATIONS, INDICATIONS ARE MORE SELECT DUE TO THE FREQUENT COMPLICATIONS IN LOWER LIMB SALVAGE PROCEDURES, SUCH AS SEVERE GENERAL COMPLICATIONS OR LOCAL COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS NECROSIS, INFECTIONS, NONUNIONS, THE NEED FOR SECONDARY LENGTHENING, OR OTHER RECONSTRUCTIVE PROCEDURES. THE SATISFACTORY RESULTS GIVEN BY ARTIFICIAL PROSTHESIS, SUCH AS QUICKER RECOVERY TIME AND FEWER SECONDARY PROCEDURES, ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HIGHER DEGREE OF SELECTION FOR LOWER LIMB REPLANTATION CANDIDATES.

PATIENTS AND METHODS WE PRESENT OUR EXPERIENCE WITH UPPER AND LOWER LIMB REPLANTATIONS, COMPARE THOSE PROCEDURES AND THEIR FINAL OUTCOMES, TRYING TO EVALUATE THE CORRECT INDICATIONS AND ESTABLISH A THERAPEUTIC PROTOCOL.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION WE HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF UPPER LIMB REPLANTATIONS, SO WE GAIN A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD. IN COMPARISON WITH THE UPPER LIMB, WE HAD A SMALLER NUMBER OF LOWER LIMBS REPLANTED, BUT WE OBSERVED, IN SOME OF THOSE CASES GOOD

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FUNCTIONAL OUTCOME, THAT ENCOURAGED US TO EXTEND OUR KNOWLEDGE IN THIS PROCEDURE.

CONCLUSIONS UPPER LIMB REPLANTATION IS AN ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE, BUT LOWER LIMB REPLANTATION IS RARER. LOWER LIMB REPLANTATION MAY HAVE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES IF CAREFUL SELECTION OF PATIENTS TAKES PLACE. DESPITE VARYING OUTCOMES FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL REPLANTATION SURGERY, PATIENTS GENERALLY PREFER TO RETAIN THEIR OWN LIMBS RATHER THAN HAVE A PROSTHESIS AND THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE INFORMED DECISION MAKING PROCESS BY CLINICIANS.

KEYWORDS: TRAUMA, REPLANTATION, SALVAGE PROCEDURES