

Discussion

Dr. Zein: I would like to ask Professor Eyre-Brook if there is no place for conservative management of Osteomyelitis. With the advent of the more powerful antibiotics I thought there was a place for a trial of them before surgery was resorted to.

Professor Eyre-Brook: My purpose in this paper was to emphasise the importance of early surgical interference. Where there is pain in the bone there is always pressure from collections of pus. Until this is released the pain and necrosis will continue. It is no good raising the dose of your antibiotic because this dose should have been given in the first place. Also a change of antibiotic will only waste valuable time where surgical drainage of the pus will relieve the pain and allow for healing.

I fully agree that it is important to treat any medical condition that might coexist. Indeed I would not attempt to do any surgical procedure on a child until the medical conditions had been first treated. But early surgical intervention will reduce any subsequent deformity, and there is unfortunately a tendency to call the Orthopaedic surgeon when medical treatment has failed and at that time it is often too late to, prevent sometimes gross deformity.

Dr Richard Hassan: I would just like to endorse what Professor Eyre-Brook has just said. The recent tendency to use antibiotics and to exclude the surgeon comes from work conducted in Edinburgh. But this was conducted by Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Professor Eyre-Brook: Yes, that is right. Of course antibiotic should be used and used in adequate doses, but I want to emphasise that the early consultation of the surgeon is important for the management of Osteomyelitis.

Dr Shibley: I would like to ask Dr Hassan whether it is important to correct The Talipes in a child early in the Neonatal period?

Dr Richard Hassan: It depends on the severity of the deformity. There is no contraindication to the use of passive exercises. But eventually the more severe grades that I have been discussing today will have to be managed over a long period by the orthopaedic surgeon.

Professor Eyre-Brook. Well if that is all the questions we shall move on to the next part of the Symposium.