E-Poster

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Challenges in the Prosthetic Management of Pediatric Lower Limb Amputations in North Africa

Topic: Prosthetics and Orthotics

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BACKGROUND

Lower limb amputation in children significantly impacts the quality of life of both the child and their family. Prosthetic management is essential to promote autonomy and social reintegration for these young patients. To report clinical features, challenges, and prosthetic adaptations made during the follow-up of amputated children.

METHODS

A retrospective descriptive study was conducted at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department of Sahloul University Hospital (Sousse, Tunisia). We included pediatric patients (< 18 years) presenting with lower limb amputations. Collected data comprised sociodemographic parameters, amputation etiology and level, post-operative course, rehabilitation admission timing and length of stay, clinical and radiological assessments, complications, and prosthetic characteristics.

RESULTS

Mean age of patients was 7.6 years. The amputation site was transtibial and of traumatic origin in the majority of cases. The most frequent complication was the appearance of bone overgrowth (4 cases), causing conflict with the prosthesis. Surgical intervention was performed in more than half of the patients. Overall, only half of the children were satisfied with their prostheses.

CONCLUSION

Prosthetic management of amputated children represents a complex and constantly evolving field. The challenges encountered are multiple, ranging from the adaptations necessary for the child's rapid growth to the specific requirements related to each amputation level and each daily activity.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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