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Letter to Editor

Timely surgical treatment and early prognosis of COVID-19 infection in patients with intertrochanteric fracture



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To the editor,

In December 2019 Coronavirus-19 pandemic led to significant changes in operations in healthcare in the China with national lockdown measures imposed to help protect the vulnerable and

prevent transmission.¹ This led the Government to implement guidelines for the public to restrict their movement and contact with others and those deemed at high risk to shield and isolate at home. This ultimately had an impact on hospital admission to Orthopaedic departments. Some of patients have been delayed due to COVID-19 control measures.²

Intertrochanteric fractures occur more frequently in elderly patients, patients with osteoporosis, often accompany and other medical disease of heart head blood-vessel, surgery have a higher risk, high mortality rate, referred to as "life last fracture", combined with low resistance to virus infection patients, how to avoid infection during this outbreak, let patients recover, is an important task of orthopedic clinical work during this outbreak.³ Characteristics of diagnosis and treatment of hip fracture under novel coronavirus

Table 1
Patients characteristics.

	Group I (n = 20)	Group II (n = 24)	P Value
Age*.y	71.4 ± 10.2	74.3 ± 12.1	>0.05†
Sex			
Male	11	10	>0.05‡
Female	9	14	
Type of Evans (I/II/III , n)	11/7/2	10/10/4	>0.05†
Interval between morbidity and surgery* , h	4.5 ± 2.0	4.9 ± 2.3	>0.05†

*The values are given as the mean and the standard deviation. †Student t test; $p < 0.05$ demonstrates significance. ‡Fisher exact test; $p < 0.05$ demonstrates significance.

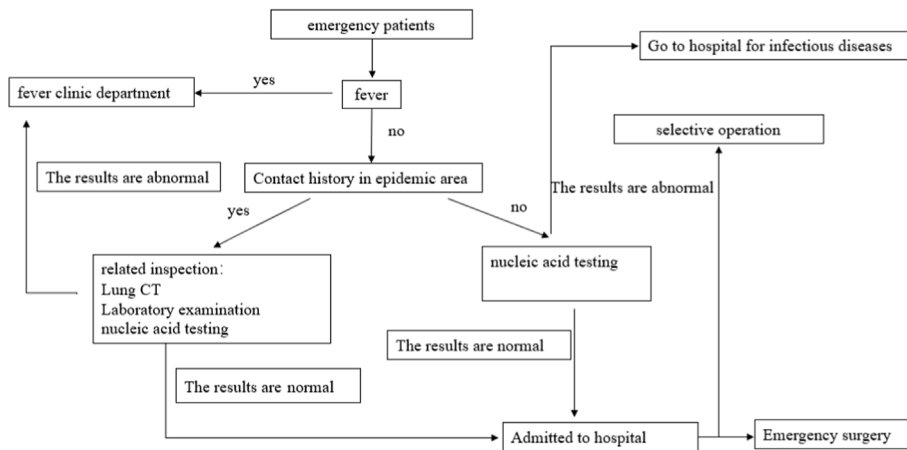


Fig. 1. Patient consultation procedures during the epidemic.

pneumonia epidemic: Novel coronavirus infection is strong, while the elderly patients with hip fracture themselves with various medical diseases, low resistance, are susceptible to infection. How to carry out emergency treatment while ensuring the safety of patients and medical staff is the key point of diagnosis and treatment for hip fracture under epidemic situation, and should follow the safety rescue principle of saving people first, properly protecting medical staff, and ensuring the safety of medical staff.⁴

Between January 2021 and January 2022, we selected 44 patients who underwent the surgery treatment in intertrochanteric fractures. The patients in the study were divided into two groups, one received the treatment of emergency rapid screening. (Group I) (n = 20), the other received the traditional surgical as a control (-Group II) (n = 24) (Table 1). Preoperative examinations (laboratory examination) were should be completed and surgical contraindications were ruled out (Fig. 1).

The difference between the two groups in the amount of intraoperative blood loss was statistically significant ($P < 0.01$); The operative duration in the group I was statistically shorter than that in the group II ($P < 0.01$). The average time patients got out of bed after operation and duration of hospitalization in group I were both statistically shorter than the group II ($P < 0.01$).

Screening and isolation of patients and controlling the susceptible population is one of the important factors to avoid infection. Good isolation between patients and their families, between patients and even between doctors and nurses, especially the classification of patients, is conducive to the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Reducing the time of preoperative examination and determining the treatment plan as soon as possible is the key.⁵ In conclusion, the selection of appropriate anesthesia and surgical methods, as well as strengthening isolation, according to patients' conditions and the wishes of patients and their families, are important factors

affecting the diagnosis and treatment effect of elderly hip fractures during COVID-19.

Declaration of competing interest

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