Perioperative Morbidity and Mortality of Same Admission Staged Bilateral Total Knee Arthroplasty

Stavros Memtsoudis, Huong T. Do, MA, Thomas P. Sculco, MD, Mark P. Figgie, MD, Lazaros Poultsides, MD, MSc, PhD

Introduction: Controversy continues regarding the optimal timing of surgery for patients with symptomatic bilateral degenerative knee arthritis who are not considered eligible for same-day bilateral TKA (BTKA). The purpose of this study was to compare the (1) 30-day mortality, (2) rates of in-hospital complications, and (3) associated risk for complications among patients undergoing same-admission staged BTKA (separate procedures during a single hospitalization) or staged BTKA (both arthroplasties performed within one year), at a highly specialized center for total joint replacement where specific guidelines have been implemented for same-day BTKA patient selection.

Methods: We analyzed institutional data from a computerized database and medical records for 153 same-admission staged BTKA and 1557 staged-BTKA patients diagnosed with idiopathic osteoarthritis (OA) from 1998 to 2011. Patient demographics, including Deyo comorbidity index and 30-day mortality, were tabulated. Same-admission staged patients were similar in age to staged patients (70.6 ± 8.1 versus 69.5 ± 9 years; p=0.112), but were more likely to be male (51.6% versus 34.3%; p<0.0001) and had a higher overall comorbidity burden (0.8 ± 1.1 versus 0.6 ± 1.1; p=0.002). Outcomes of interest included procedure-related, minor or major complications, blood transfusions, and transfer to rehabilitation or higher level of care.

Results: The mean LOS was higher in the same-admission staged cohort (11.4 ± 4 versus 9.2 ± 2.9 days; p<0.001). There was no difference in 30-day mortality between the same-admission and staged patients (0% versus 0.06%; p=0.754). The same-admission group experienced more acute postoperative anemia (10.5% versus 2.7%; p<0.0001), blood transfusions (90.8% versus 53.6%; p<0.0001), and transfers to rehabilitation (82.3% versus 45.9%; p<0.0001). There were no differences in the overall procedure-related (3.3% versus 2.6%; p=0.643) and major complication (8.5% versus 6%; p=0.23) rates between the same-admission and staged cohorts. However, same-admission patients had a higher rate of minor complications (38.6% versus 28.6%; p=0.01) and specifically significantly higher incidence of hypotension, syncope and collapse, UTI, in-hospital infection and paralytic ileus.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that for patients who are not appropriate candidates for same-day BTKA it is preferable to undergo staged BTKA within a year and avoid same-admission staged BTKA because of higher incidence of perioperative morbidity.