

Abstract

## Treatment of Avascular Necrosis of the Talus with Vascularized Fibular Graft

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Nonunion and avascular necrosis are well-recognized complications of severe ankle injury especially after talar neck fracture. The treatment of avascular necrosis is controversial and methods of treatment are limited.

Many modalities have been introduced for the treatment of avascular necrosis of talus. The prolonged non-weight bearing for 2~3 years is not practical but also is occasionally complicated by late segmental collapse. Operative treatment includes tibiotalar arthrodesis and talectomy with tibiocalcaneal arthrodesis, but arthrodesis in patients with talar avascular necrosis is technically demanding and cause stiff, immobile foot and relatively high failure rate was reported. It is desirable to preserve their original joint if possible.

Vascularized fibular grafting has been reported as a joint preserving treatment option for osteonecrosis of the hip but has not been described for the ankle. The authors applied free vascularized fibular grafts for 3 cases of avascular necrosis of talus. We observed evidences of revascularization of necrotic talar body and progression of fracture healing and obtained satisfactory results at mean 8 months of follow-up. Vascularized fibular grafting is one of the better alternatives for treating avascular necrosis of talus. It is expected that vascularized fibular grafting can prevent the necrotic talar dome from progressing to collapse and promote directly restored vascularization and new bone formation.

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**Key Words** : Talus, Avascular necrosis, Vascularized fibular graft

가 가 가  
가 ,  
가 ,

(Fig. 1A).

8 3  
arteries) (arcade  
1998 11 1 ~ 2mm  
3 2  
, 36 21 25 (Fig. 1B).

(Fig. 1C).

가 2 . 2  
가  
가  
가 가  
가  
가 9 (6 ~ 18 ) hole bone  
bone hole  
가 가 (end to side anastomosis)



**Fig. 1-A.** Photograph shows posterior approach of ankle and inlet of bone hole at the posterior aspect of the talus. **B.** Photograph shows harvested fibular graft along the longitudinal axis of fibula at the donor site. **C.** Harvested vascularized fibular graft.

(vascular network)

가  
 60  
 가 1  
 가  
 가 1  
 1 가 3  
 가 8  
 K- 21  
 가  
 1 가 65  
 가 5 6

. 2

(Fig. 2C),

1

가 65

21

2

26

, 14

(Fig. 3A), 7

(Fig. 3B), 7

가

가 ,  
가  
(Fig. 2A),

가 가  
(Fig. 2B).

3

가 (Fig. 3C),

가 가

가



**Fig. 2-A.** A 21-year-old female patient with displaced talar neck fracture combined with medial malleolar fracture was treated with open reduction internal fixation with compression screws. But sclerotic change of talar body and visible fracture line on the talar neck suggest avascular necrosis and nonunion of talus. **B.** Postoperative radiograph shows inserted vascularized fibular graft in bone hole of talus across the talar neck fracture fixed with K-wire. **C.** Plain radiograph at postoperative 9 months shows no visible fracture line and decreased sclerosis and bony union between talus and endosteal surface of the fibular graft.



**Fig. 3-A.** A 26-year-old male patient with history of complete dislocation of talus combined with medial malleolar fracture was treated with open reduction and internal fixation of the dislocated talus and the medial malleolar fracture. Sclerosis of talar body suggest avascular necrosis. **B.** Postoperative radiograph shows inserted vascularized fibular graft in the bone hole of talus. **C.** Plain radiograph at postoperative 7 months shows decreased sclerosis of the talar body compared to postoperative radiograph.

가

5,11,15)

가

60% 가

가

가

8,10,11)

12)

8,14)

가

4), Garcia

14),

2~3

10,14),

7),

mm, 2 ~ 4mm

<sup>16)</sup>

Blair

가

<sup>3)</sup>

Morris

가

Blair

(osteoprogenitor cell)가

<sup>13)</sup> Dennis Blair

가

<sup>17-20)</sup>

<sup>6)</sup> Canale

가

가

가

<sup>5)</sup>

, U

Coltart

가

<sup>3,5,6)</sup>

1.5 inch

가

<sup>4)</sup>

<sup>12)</sup>

가

<sup>9)</sup>

1975 Taylor

가

<sup>17-19)</sup>

Hawkins

<sup>8)</sup>

(bone incorporation)가

3

(ilium),

<sup>17)</sup>

가

가

가

가

1.8mm ~ 2.5

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