Influence of fracture treatments on elder patients’ short term survival rate

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View from specialist: It is creative, and of certain scientific and educational value.

[ABSTRACT] Objective: To investigate influence of fracture treatments on elder patients’ short term survival rate. Methods: A total of 658 patients older than 75 years old with limb fractures admitted from January 2005 to August 2010 were selected. They were randomly divided into three groups. Group 1 was treated with surgery; group 2 was treated with non-invasive external fixation, group 3 was treated with pain killer and limited position. Survival rate after 12 months were observed with Kruskal-Wallis Test according to fractures occurred in upper limbs or lower limbs. Results: According to 12 months follow-up, 635 patients were still alive. For those with upper limb fractures, there were 139 cases (97.8%), 7 (77.8%) and 9 patients (100%) alive in group 1, 2 and 3, showing no significant difference among the three groups (P > 0.05). For patients with lower limb fractures, there were 435 cases (97.1%), 34 (89.5%) and 11 (91.7%) alive from group 1, 2, 3 respectively, showing significant difference among the three groups (P < 0.01). Conclusions: Fractures in upper limbs may affect function of the involved limb, but have no effect on 1 year survival rate, while surgery for lower limb fractures can raise 1 year survival rate. For elder patients that can not tolerate surgery, treatment of restricted position is more useful in prolonging survival rate than treatment of traction or plasters splintage.

(KEY WORDS) Elder; Fracture; Survival rate