Evidence in focus

Publication summary Wu D, et al. *Diagn Pathol* (2014)*



Significantly less cutout and fewer femoral shaft fractures with INTERTAN° than a single lag screw device in patients with unstable trochanteric fractures

Both devices led to comparable improvements in function up to a year after surgery



Study design

- A prospective, comparative study of patients aged >60 years with unstable trochanteric fractures who were offered the choice of either INTERTAN integrated compression screws (87 patients; mean age, 71.4 years) or Gamma3[™] (Stryker) single lag screws (174 patients; mean age, 72.6 years)
- Patients underwent radiographic assessment at 1, 3, 6, and 12 months postoperatively



Key results

- Rates of cutout and femoral shaft fractures were significantly higher with the single lag screw compared with INTERTAN (Figure)
- The rate of intraoperative complications was comparable between groups
- Patients treated with INTERTAN and single lag screw both experienced significant and comparable gains in Harris Hip Scores, from 55.3 and 56.7 (p=0.187) preoperatively to 88.2 and 85.6 (p=0.076) at one year, respectively

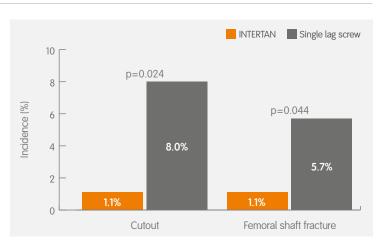


Figure. Percentage of patients experiencing cutout or femoral shaft fracture



Conclusion

Compared with a single lag screw, INTERTAN may result in better outcomes for patients with unstable trochanteric fractures. INTERTAN resulted in significantly fewer cases of cutout and femoral shaft fracture. Functional outcomes and intraoperative complications were comparable between the treatments.



Study citation

*Wu D, Ren G, Peng C, Zheng X, Mao F, Zhang Y. InterTan nail versus Gamma3 nail for intramedullary nailing of unstable trochanteric fractures. *Diagn Pathol.* 2014:9:191.