

COMMENT: SURGICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF LEPROTIC FOOT-DROP

Sir,

It was a great surprise to learn that Bari, Islam & Haque^{1,2} employed the two tail tibialis transfer to the toe extensors for the correction of drop foot.

I used this technique many years ago. The immediate results were uniformly good. On follow-up, however, a large proportion of these feet had developed marked, and crippling supination of the foot, while, in addition, a fair proportion of them had developed strong dorsiflexion of the toes with severe plantar depression of the metatarsal heads.

Since then I have consistently used a technique with circumtibial transfer of tibialis posterior in the direction of the insertion of peroneus brevis, while incorporating the toe extensors en route. Lengthening of tendo Achillis is performed in at same time if required.

The results, on long-term follow-up have always been consistently excellent or good.

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Bibliography

¹ Dropfoot in leprosy and its surgical correction. *Acta Orthop Scand*, **33**: 151.

² Foot drop in leprosy. 1964 *Lepr. Rev.*, **35**: 41.