The effectiveness of the circular external fixator in the treatment of post-traumatic of the tibia nonunion.

[Article in English, Italian]

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Authors report the results they obtained when the Ilizarov circular external fixator was used for the treatment of post-traumatic nonunion of the tibia. A total of 20 patients were treated. Of these 12 had been submitted to treatment elsewhere and using other methods; 9 presented with septic nonunion; 10 revealed radiographic findings of atrophic nonunion, and 10 were hypertrophic. There was axial deviation in 18 patients. The results of treatment were always: healing of the nonunion; functional recovery of the limb; correction of leg length discrepancy; recovery of the mechanical axis. The mean stabilization time (days between the application and the removal of the fixator) was 138 days. The Ilizarov method thus proved that it was effective in the treatment of post-traumatic nonunion of the tibia where other types of treatment had failed.

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