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# RESEARCH ARTICLE

### COMPARISON OF CLOSING WEDGE AND OPENING WEDGE HIGH TIBIAL OSTEOTOMY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Background and purpose: High tibial osteotomy (HTO) is a widely performed procedure to treat medial knee arthritis. Two basic HTO techniques are performed commonly, a lateral closing-wedge HTO and a medial opening-wedge HTO. Previous studies have not consistently demonstrated either technique to offer more clinical advantage than the other. Material and methodology: From 2019 to 2020, one hundred patients were randomized to receive either a closing-wedge or an opening-wedge high tibial osteotomy. The clinical outcome and radiographic results were examined preoperatively, at 2, 6 and 18 months postoperatively. Main demographic variables such as age, gender, body mass index (BMI) and previous non-surgical treatment data were collected and reviewed. The outcomes that we reviewed include maintenance of the achieved correction (pre- and postoperative wight bearing line, medial proximal tibial angle), progression of osteoarthritis (based on the Kellgren and Lawrence classification), severity of pain and quality of life (as assessed with an Oxford and a Lysholm knee score), knee function (pre- and postoperative knee range of motion), surgical duration and complications. Data analysis calculated by using Stata 13.0. Results: The mean age of study participants was 51±6 and 10 percent of those were men. The 51 percent of the total subjects underwent the lateral closing-wedge high tibial osteotomy and remained 49% received the medial opening-wedge technique. At 18 months, percent of weight bearing line increased to 57.1±4.2 in lateral closing-wedge osteotomy group and 58.8±4.0 in medial opening-wedge osteotomy group. The mean medial proximal tibial angle was 92.8±2.7 in lateral closing-wedge osteotomy group and 92.8±3.0 in medial opening-wedge osteotomy. The Oxford knee score and Lysholm knee score significantly increased at 6 months and 18 months follow-up in both study groups compared to preoperation assessment (p < 0.0001). At 2 months follow-up period, participants in both groups obtained significantly lower score in the Oxford and Lysholm knee scale compared to both pre-operation and final assessment. Conclusion: Both method of tibial osteotomy, medial opening wedge and lateral closing wedge, depicted satisfactory result in our study. However, medial opening wedge technique may provide surgeons better possibility to correct weight bearing line more accurately than lateral closing wedge method.

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# INTRODUCTION

Two basic HTO techniques are commonly performed, a lateral closing-wedge HTO and a medial opening-wedge HTO. Traditionally, although closed-wedge HTOs were more common in the past, the open-wedge HTO has gradually taken the place of the closed-wedge HTO. Open-wedge HTOs have several advantages over closed-wedge HTOs, including easier control of the degree of correction, less extensive soft tissue dissection, sparing of the proximal tibiofibular joint, and the avoidance of serious complications such as peroneal palsy.

The number of HTO is increasing every year, however which technique is better than other is still remain unclear.

# RESULTS

The mean age of study participants was 51±6. The 51 percent of the total subjects underwent the lateral closing-wedge high tibial osteotomy and remained 49% received the medial opening-wedge technique. There was not statistically significant difference on demographic variables such as age, gender, occupation, body mass index between intervention and control group (p=0.007). Total of 42 people with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of osteoarthritis underwent high tibial osteotomy.

Table 1. The change in weight bearing line, medial proximal tibial angle, knee extension and flexion range,
Oxford knee score and Lysholm knee score by study groups

	Study Group				P
	LC		MO		value
	Mean	sd	Mean	Sd	
WBL, %					
Pre-operation	22.9	11.7	18.1	13.1	0.005
At 2 months	56.8	3.6	57.7	3.8	
At 6 months	56.6	3.7	58.4	3.5	
At 18 months	57.1	4.2	58.8	4.0	
	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001		
MPTA					
Pre-operation	79.9	3.3	82.7	3.5	0.005
At 2 months	92.6	2.3	92.9	3.1	
At 6 months	92.8	2.3	92.4	3.1	
At 18 months	92.8	2.7	92.8	3.0	
	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001		
Ext					
Pre-operation	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.3	0.005
At 2 months	16.7	7.5	14.7	6.8	
At 6 months	4.2	3.1	3.5	1.8	
At 18 months	2.7	2.2	2.9	1.9	
	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001		
Flex					
Pre-operation	113.5	12.6	111.9	14.0	0.005
At 2 months	73.6	9.6	74.4	11.6	
At 6 months	105.1	12.9	107.4	12.6	
At 18 months	111.3	12.6	111.9	13.6	7
	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001		
Oxford	Î				•
Pre-operation	26.1	5.4	28.6	5.9	
At 2 months	24.3	3.5	26.7	4.4	
At 6 months	34.7	5.4	37.8	4.3	
At 18 months	37.3	4.9	40.4	4.0	
	p < 0.0001		p < 0.0001		
Lysholm					•
Pre-operation	66.4	5.9	66.8	6.8	
At 2 months	51.8	8.7	53.5	10.8	
At 6 months	77.5	5.0	79.2	4.1	
At 18 months	81.2	5.2	83.0	4.2	

LC- lateral closing-wedge osteotomy for medial compartment osteoarthritis of the knee MO- medial opening-wedge osteotomy for medial compartment osteoarthritis of the knee sd- standard deviation \*\* -P value<0.01 is regarded as statistically significance. Chi-square test conducted to assess difference between groups.



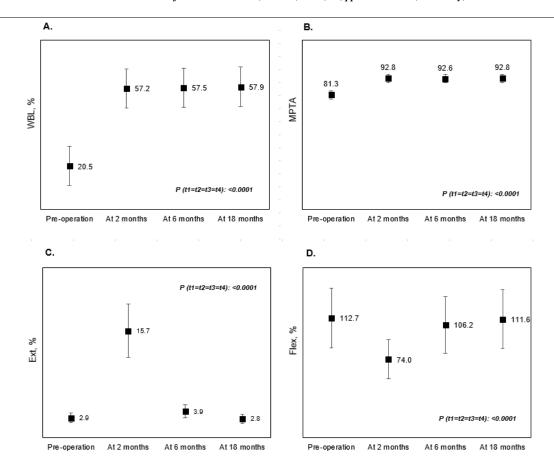
Picture 1. Weight bearing line before and after medial opening wedge high tibial osteotomy



Picture 2. X-ray images before and after lateral closing wedge high tibial osteotomy

Study participants' mean WBL % significantly increased from 20.5±4.1 at pre-operation assessment to 57.2±4.6 at 2 months follow-up. At 6 months and 18 months follow up period, mean WBL % remained as parameter at 2 months follow-up. In the figure B, mean MPTA was 81.3 at pre-operation and increased significantly to 92.8 at 2 months follow-up and remained at 6 months and 18 months (p< 0.0001). In the figure C, pre-operation mean knee extension range was 2.9 and sharply raised significantly to 15.7 at 2 months follow up.

The mean knee extension range significantly declined to 3.9 and 2.8, at 6 months and 18 months follow-up, respectively (p< 0.0001). In the figure D, mean knee flexion range was 112.7 at pre-operation assessment and significantly decreased to 74.0 at 2 months. During the 6 months and 18 months follow-up, the mean knee flexion range significantly increased to 106.2 and 111.6, respectively (p< 0.0001). There was significant difference between four times assessments on weight bearing line percentage in both intervention and control



Picture 3. The difference in some measurements of study participants A. WBL%, B. MPTA, C. Ext%, D. Flex%

group (p<0.0001). At 18 months, percent of weight bearing line increased to 57.1±4.2 in lateral closing-wedge osteotomy and 58.8±4.0 in medial opening-wedge technique. At 18 months postoperatively, the mean medial proximal tibial angle was 92.8±2.7 in lateral closing-wedge osteotomy and 92.8±3.0 medial opening-wedge osteotomy. The significant difference was found between the study time-points in both groups (p < 0.0001).In LC group, the mean knee extension range was 3.0±2.4 in pre-operative stage and 2.7 in 18 months follow-up period. Moreover, in MO group, the mean knee extension range was 2.8±2.3 in pre-operation and 2.9±1.9 in 18 months assessment. There was significant difference between pre-operation, 2 months, 6 months and 18 months follow-up periods in both intervention and control group (p < 0.0001). In terms of the mean knee flexion range, significant difference also found between these follow-up periods in both groups (p < 0.0001). The Oxford knee score and Lisholm knee score significantly increased at 6 months and 18 months follow-up in both study groups compared to pre-operation assessment (p < 0.0001). At 2 months follow-up period, participants in both groups obtained significantly lower score in the Oxford and Lisholm knee scale compared to both pre-operation and final assessment (Table 3).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It is possible to improve the symptoms and to prevent the progression of knee by initiating proper treatment such as HTO. In addition, clinical result of MOWHTO is superior even in KL-3 patients. Kim JHet al have performed a meta analysis study that depicted the survival rate with open- and closed-wedge HTO was 95.1% (95% CI: 93.1 to 97.1%) and 93.9% (95% CI: 93.1 to 94.6%) at 5 years, respectively, and

91.6% (95% CI: 88.5 to 94.8%) and85.4% (95% CI: 84.0 to 86.7%) at 10 years, respectively. Sun et al noted in a study that CWO led to a higher incidence of opposite cortical fracture. Overall, we've concluded that surgeons may fix the axis of lower extremity more accurately by using medial opening wedge technique than lateral closing wedge method that leads to better outcome.

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