

Fibula Osteotomy Using a Rib Cutter

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ABSTRACT

We find the use of a rib cutter to be a useful alternative instrument in carrying out a fibular osteotomy.

A fibula osteotomy is usually carried out as an adjunct in various kinds of lower limb reconstructive and malalignment correction surgery. There are various techniques available in carrying out a fibula osteotomy. These include the use of hand saws, electronic oscillating or reciprocating saws, and Gigli wires.^{1,2} An osteotome can also be used. Sometimes, drill holes are made into the bone and the “dotted lines” joined up with an osteotome. Some of these techniques are known to generate heat and on occasions lead to thermal necrosis.^{3,4} Controlling the osteotomy, particularly through small incisions, can sometimes prove difficult.

We find the use of a rib cutter quite useful, as it allows control of the osteotomy, avoids soft-tissue damage, and is easy to use. Through a 1.5-cm to 2-cm incision, we dissect down to the fibula. The periosteum is elevated and a Vehmehren rib cutter (Downs Surgical, Sheffield, UK) is introduced with its jaws opened

(Figure 1). The instrument has a good grip on the fibula, and a controlled osteotomy is carried out by closing the jaws of the instrument (Figures 2 and 3).

This technique may have the potential to be user friendly and safe



Figure 1. Vehmehren rib cutter with jaws open.



Figure 2. Rib cutter with jaws closed.



Figure 3. Intraoperative demonstration of fibula osteotomy.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The authors report no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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