**The Orthoplastic Approach to Lower Limb Reconstruction: A Multicentric prospective outcome study in Bristol, Italy and Pakistan**

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**Background:**

Open fractures of the leg represent a severe injury, which requires shared management between plastic and orthopaedic surgeons as recommended by multi-collegiate guidelines created in 2006. The multidisciplinary approach, however, is not the routine all over the world and treatments are often based on tradition.

**Method:**

42 patients with open fractures of the lower limb were prospectively included from 3 separate centres in the UK, Italy and Pakistan from January to June 2012. Type of injury, sequence of medical management and length of admission were recorded by a single doctor in each hospital.

**Results:**

The 42 patients had comparable injuries with similarities in mechanism, location and severity of injury. Definitive bony fixation was similar in all 3 countries and usually occurred within 5 days. In contrast, the timing of soft tissue cover showed marked variation between centres, with patients in Bristol having input from plastic surgeons at a much earlier stage. The hospital stay for patients in Bristol was considerably shorter than in Italy and Pakistan.

**Key Messages:**

Successful treatment of this severe injury depends on combined management between orthopaedic and plastic surgeons and if this approach is adhered to, the outcome for the patient will be improved.