Calcaneal Fracture Plate

Surgical technique
Introduction

Calcaneal fractures are usually caused by a high-velocity impact to the heel. The most common mechanism of injury is a fall from a height of 2 meters or more, but calcaneal fractures also result from motor vehicle accidents.

Calcaneal fractures may be extra or intra-articular.

Surgical treatment with open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) is now well accepted to be the method which gives recognized clinical results, especially for type II and type III calcaneal fractures according to the Sanders classification.

The aim of the surgical procedure is to restore the articular surface of the calcaneus and to obtain an anatomic reconstruction (height and width of the calcaneus).

However, clinical and technical problems can occur due to the thickness and the stiffness of the plates, in particular superficial necrosis of the surgical wounds and peroneal tendinitis. These problems are related to the traction onto the skin flap during surgery and to the thickness of the plates that may cause ischemic problems to the skin and impingement of the peroneal tendons.

Moreover, most plates have a limited number of holes and do not allow for significant moulding because of their thickness. In this situation, the screws have to be inserted in predetermined sites of the calcaneal wall, and especially in the fractured zones of the lateral calcaneal wall, in the comminuted fractures. Sometimes this can lead to insufficient grip of the screws and therefore insufficient mechanical resistance of the implant.

In those circumstances, early movement to prevent joint stiffness and enhance fractured soft tissue healing is not possible.

The CALCANEA® plate is the solution of choice for the ORIF treatment of calcaneal fractures.

This plate is made of titanium alloy (TA6V4), has an anatomical shape corresponding to the anatomy of the calcaneus. It is available in three different sizes, to better fit the calcaneus shape (5.5 cm long for size small, 6.5 cm long for size medium and 7.5 cm long for size large).

Its thickness is 1 mm in the middle, and 1.80mm in the sites of main fixation.

3-4 holes are present in its anterior, posterior and upper parts for fixation screws with threaded heads, and 9-10 holes for variable orientation of the screws.

The plate is fixed using 3.5mm screws.

Holes in the plate provide fixation with up to 4 screws in the posterior tuberosity, 3 screws in the anterior process, and 7 screws in the middle.

The limited thickness permits to mould the plate and to eventually cut it if the plate is overstuffing anatomically the calcaneus.

The upper part of the posterior and anterior borders can sometimes be cut off, or bent for a dorsoplantar screw fixation.

Before the definitive fixation of the plate, autologous or synthetic bone grafts may be inserted, if necessary, in the os trigonum of the calcaneus.
**ADVANTAGES:**

- Increased stability by locking screw fixation and “bridging” of the primary fracture line
- Low profile plate
- Thickness allows remodeling according to the lateral wall of the calcaneus
- Low irritation of soft tissues and tendons
- Reconstruction of height and width of the calcaneus
- Large number of holes for versatile fixation
- Dual screw fixation system (locking & variable) allowing stable fixation regardless of bone conditions
- Angulation of the screws up to 30°
- Bi-cortical or mono-cortical fixation
- Color code for the plate and the screws

It is always possible to fix the Calcanea® plate in a good cortical area of the lateral calcaneal wall with locking screws, thus improving the mechanical resistance of the implant.

The plate exerts a compression effect when screws are tightened, reducing the width of the posterior tuberosity. Therefore, it allows the connection of the thalamus portion to the inferior segment.

This improved mechanical resistance may make it possible to reduce the period of partial weight bearing after the operation.

The Calcanea® plate has been successfully tested* in an experimental calcaneus fracture model on synthetic bone, showing high stability and low plate deformation when loading.

(* M. RICHTER MD, PhD, Trauma department HANNOVER medical school, Germany)
Surgical technique

AS SUGGESTED BY PROF. THERMANN, M.D., HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

The indication for surgery is based on lateral and axial radiographs, tangential Broden views of the posterior facet. CT scans in the axial and coronal planes are analyzed to evaluate displacements and reduction strategies.

The Bohler, De Langre and Preiss angles are measured.

1 PREOPERATIVE PLANNING

The patient is positioned in a lateral decubitus position. Safe support is needed so that the table can be tilted for fluoroscopy or for an additional reduction manoeuvre.

The landmarks for incision are the distal fibula, the anterior process of the calcaneus, the calcaneocuboid joint and the base of the 5th metatarsal. A large L-shaped (right side) or J-shaped (left side) surgical incision is made beginning approximately 4cm above the tip of the lateral malleolus, midway between the posterior border of the fibula and the Achilles tendon.

The lateral incision allows direct access and easier reduction of the displaced lateral fragment, compared to medial approach. The incision begins proximally, curves below the sural nerve, and then moves upward to the calcaneocuboid joint. It is imperative to avoid harming the sural nerve and prevent skin flap difficulties.
The incision is made down to the bone in order to make a cutaneous - subcutaneous flap that includes the peroneal tendons. The flap is developed anteriorly to expose the posterior subtalar joint.

The flap is elevated, along with the sural nerve and peroneal tendons. Pins are then inserted and bent to hold the flap and the soft tissues. The subtalar joint is opened and the fractures of the lateral calcaneal wall are dissected, in order to expose the fractured and depressed articular fragments.

The reduction manoeuvre usually begins at the posterior articular surface and proceeds to the Gissane angle and to the body of the calcaneus. However, if varus tilt of the calcaneus prevents anatomic reduction of the posterior facet, the alignment of the body may need to be corrected prior to the reduction of the joint surface.

The fractured lateral wall of the calcaneus is gently opened, leaving the fracture fragments within their periosteal envelope.

The fragments are elevated, the articular surface is reduced, and fixation is made using temporary Kirschner wires.

Most of the time, the posterior facet is first restored, with the medial facet in relation to the sustentaculum tali, the anterior facet and at last the posterior tuberosity. These steps should enable the surgeon to restore the length and width of the calcaneus.

3 areas of dense cortical bone will hold fixation well: at the distal portion of the calcaneus (near the calcaneocuboid joint), below the angles of Gissane (below the posterior facet), and at the tuberosity. A triangle of soft cortical bone in the middle portion of the calcaneus is a neutral triangle that will not hold a screw well.
3 CALCANEA PLATE POSITIONING

At this point, the Calcanea® plate is used. The size that best fits the calcaneal anatomy is chosen; size small, medium or large. Each plate is anatomical and suitable for either left or right side. The Calcanea® plate is then positioned at the appropriate location on the lateral calcaneal wall.

If necessary the Calcanea® plate can be moulded and contoured to the lateral aspect of the anterior process, the posterior facet and to the tuberosity. The upper part of the posterior and anterior borders can sometimes be cut off, or be bent for a dorso-plantar screw fixation. Plate benders (2 x 129 139, upon request) should be used for this bending procedure.
4 Calcanea plate fixation with locking screws

The drilling sleeves (129 135) are first screwed in the hole located on the anterior extremity and in the 2 holes on the posterior extremity of the plate. They allow axial drilling and perfect insertion of the locking screws.

The holes for fixation screws are drilled using the 2.2 mm drill (119 006) through the drilling sleeves.

The plate is fixed using specific 3.5mm screws (180 XXX). The appropriate length of the screws to be inserted is evaluated using the depth gauge (129 134).

Color coding of each size of screw allows for quick choice of the adequate length to be used.

The positioning of the locking screws on the Calcanea® plate creates a frame through which the stress forces are running and kept to a minimum.
Holes in the plate allow fixation with up to 4 screws in the posterior tuberosity (2 locking screws and 2 variable angle screws), and 3 screws in the anterior process (1 locking screw and 2 variable angle screws). If there is a fracture of the anterior process of the calcaneus, it will be temporarily stabilized with Kirschner wires.

The screws are inserted with the specific screwdriver (129 132) in a normal way, and introduced in the bone until the base of their head is blocked against the plate.

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**5 Calcanea Plate Fixation with Variable Angle Screws**

The variable angle screws can be introduced in the other holes (non-threaded) of the plate, depending on the bone fragments to be fixed. The drill guide (129 130) and the drill diameter 2.2 mm (119 006) are used to perform the holes and adjust the orientation of the screws.

The appropriate length of the 3.5mm screws (180 XXX) to be inserted is evaluated using the depth gauge (129 134).
6 POSTOPERATIVE CARE

The patient should receive antibiotic and anti thrombotic prophylaxis. Before the wound suture, suction drainage is performed and will be carried out for two days. The postoperative care consists of partial weight-bearing, for 4 to 6 weeks, depending on the comminution, and then physiotherapy and progressive loading. Sagittal ankle joint motion is started after suction drain removal. Eversion and inversion movements are started after stable wound healing.

7 REMOVAL OF THE MATERIAL

After 1 year, it is advised to remove the material. The Calcanea® plate has been designed to enable easy removal. All the screws inserted in the plate can be removed using a regular 3.5 mm screwdriver. An arthrolysis for improvement of the subtalar joint motion is mandatory.
**Instrumentation**

1. 129 132: 2.5 mm Hexagonal screwdriver
2. 129 135: Drilling sleeves (x3)
3. 129 130: Drilling guide
4. 119 006: Drill diam. 2.2 mm
   or 119 016: Drill diam. 2.2 mm, AO attachment
5. 115 116: K-wires, diam. 1.6 mm, Length 150 mm (x4)
6. 129 134: Depth gauge
Instructions for use

1 - Description of the medical devices :
The implants - delivered non-sterile - are :
- Osteosynthesis plates, existing in different models and sizes
- They are made out of Titanium alloy within the frame of the standard ISO 5832-3 and ASTM F153

2 - Indications :
Depending on the model, the osteosynthesis plates are indicated for use in fixation of :
- Fractures or osteotomies of the calcaneous : CALCANEA® fractures, osteotomies or arthodesis of the first metatarso-phalangeal joint (HALLUX-FIX system, 5-Plate and C-Plate), including cases of :
  - Hallux rigidus
  - Severe hallux valgus (IM angle >20° and HV angle > 40°)
  - Deformity from rheumatoid arthritis
  - Failed previous surgical procedure
  - Traumatic arthritis
  - Neuromuscular instability.

3 - Contraindications :
The implant should not be used in a patient who has currently, or who has had :
- Local or systemic acute or chronic inflammation;
- Active infection or inflammation;
- Suspected or documented metal allergy or intolerance;

4 - Warnings :
Serious post-operative complications may occur from use of the implant in a patient who :
- Has severe osteoporosis;
- Has immunological responses, sensitization, or hypersensitivity to foreign materials;
- Has systemic or metabolic disorders or replacement;
- Has severe osteoporosis;
- Has immunological responses, sensitization, or hypersensitivity to foreign materials;

5 - Precautions for use :
Physician must determine if implant is appropriate for patients who have any of the following conditions :
- Drug and/or alcohol and/or smoke addiction and/or abuse;
- Infectious disease;
- Malignancy;
- Local bone tumors;
- Systemic or metabolic disorders or replacement;
- Compromised wound healing;
- Obesity;
- Demonstrated psychological instability, displayed a lack of understanding, inappropriate motivation, or attitude;
- Unwillingness to accept the possibility of multiple surgeries for revision or replacement;
- Lacks an understanding that a metallic implant is not as strong as normal healthy bone and will bend, loosen, or fracture if excessive demand is placed on it;
- Lacks an understanding that their preoperative capacity may not be fully recovered even after successful implantation;
- Knowledge of surgical techniques, proper reposition, selection and placement of implants, and post-operative patient management are considerations essential to a successful outcome.

Criteria for patient selection is the responsibility of the surgeon. Information contained within this document should be taken into consideration during the selection process. Recognition of the appropriate indications and contraindications and the selection of the proper surgical procedures and techniques determined to be best for the patient are the responsibility of the surgeon. Each surgeon must evaluate the appropriateness of the procedure and instruments used during the procedure based on his or her own training and experience.

The surgeon should discuss with the patient prior to surgery possible risks, precautions, warnings, consequences, complications, and adverse reactions associated with the surgical procedure and implantation of the device.

Each patient must be evaluated by the surgeon to determine the specific risk/benefit relationship in light of the patient’s condition and the surgeon’s practice, training, experience, and knowledge of the related medical literature.

Complications with the use of osteosynthesis plates have been reported in the medical literature. Any patient undergoing a surgical procedure is subject to intra-operative and post-operative complications. Each patient’s tolerance to surgery, medication, and implantation of a foreign object may be different.

Possible risks, adverse reactions, and complications associated with surgery and the use of the osteosynthesis plates should be discussed with and understood by the patient prior to surgery.

The implant is composed of titanium alloy materials; therefore, it is subject to possible reactions and complications, including those listed herein. The patient should not be led to unrealistic expectations as to the performance or results that the surgery and implant can provide. The patient should be informed that the life expectancy of the device is unpredictable once implanted, and that successful results cannot be guaranteed.

It is the responsibility of the surgeon to provide the patient with information prior to surgery.

Complications may include but are not limited to :
- Pain, discomfort, or abnormal sensations due to presence of the implant;
- Bending, loosening, and/or breakage, which could make removal impracticable or difficult;
- Risk of additional injury from post-operative trauma;
- Migration of the implant position or implant material resulting in injury;
- Bone loss due to stress shielding;
- Side effects may include but are not limited to :
  - Infections;
  - Hematoma;
  - Allergy;
  - Thrombosis;
  - Bone non-union or delayed union.

Adverse effects may necessitate re-operation, revision or removal surgery, arthrodesis of the involved joint, and/or amputation of the limb.

Implant removal should be followed by adequate postoperative management to avoid fracture or re-fracture.

Interference risks during medical imaging : MRI/SCANNER : ask the patient to systematically mention that he/she has undergone a surgical intervention.

6 - Instructions for reprocessing :
This product is sold non sterile.
Check the integrity of the packaging and labeling before opening the packing.
Remove all the products from their packaging prior to sterilization.
All products should be cleaned, decontaminated, and sterilized before use.
Always immediately clean and decontaminate all devices that have been sterilized.
Repeated reprocessing has little effect on these products.
Preparation : Double instruments (ex. Internal screwdriver and associated external screwdriver) should be separated prior to cleaning.

Cleaning : Cleaning can be performed manually, automatically or ultrasonically in accordance with the specifications designated by the manufacturer of the hospital’s equipment.

Manual cleaning :
Manual cleaning consists of using aldehyde free cleaners (neutral or alkaline), applied with a soft brush, taking special care to assure utility. Alternate fixation methods should be available intraoperatively.
Opening of the instruments set must be done according to aseptic condition.
When handling the implants, avoid any contact with other material or tools which may damage the implant surface. Under no circumstances should the implant be modified.

7 - Use of the implant :
The surgeon must use the instruments recommended in accordance with the operative technique available from the manufacturer. The medical device must be used in compliance with the use of the profession and the standard of art. Do not attempt a surgical procedure with faulty, damaged or suspect instruments or implants. Inspect all components preoperatively to assure utility. Alternate fixation methods should be available intraoperatively.
Opening of the instruments set must be done according to aseptic condition.

9 - Re-sterilization of non implanted products :
Re-sterilization is only allowed for non implanted products. Such non implanted products can be sterilized several times in the same conditions as those described above.

10 - Preventative actions for the patient to avoid post-operative complications :
- Avoid extreme position such as flexion-extension;
- Wear orthopaedic shoes according to the surgeon’s prescription;
- Receive prompt medical attention for any infection that could occur, whether at the operated-member level or elsewhere in the body.

11 - Storage :
Store in dry place

12 - Liability :
Newdeal shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential loss, damage, or expense, directly, or indirectly arising from the use of this product. Newdeal neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume it for any other or additional liability or responsibility in connection with this product. Newdeal intends that this device should be used only by physicians having received appropriate training in orthopedic surgery techniques.

WARNING : Federal law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

WARNING : This device is not approved for screw attachment or fixation to the posterior elements (pedicles) of the cervical, thoracic or lumbar spine.

INFORMATION : Should any information regarding the product’s or their uses be required, please contact your representative or distributor or directly contact the manufacturer.

Disinfection : If an automatic cleaning is used, final rinsing at 95°C during 10 minutes can be performed.
Drying : Drying temperature should not exceed 95°C.
Contrals, servicing and tests : No specific requirements. The implants are single-use. They should therefore never be re-used.

Packaging : No specific requirements.
Sterilization : Newdeal’s implants and instruments are recommended to be sterilized by the steam autoclaving procedure regularly used in the hospital.
The following two methods have been validated by the manufacturer and can thus be used :

Method : steam
Method : steam
Cycle : wrapped gravity
Cycle : wrapped gravity
Temperature : 132°C
Temperature : 134°C
Exposure time : 45 minutes
Exposure time : 18 minutes

Other sterilization method and cycles may also be used. However, individuals or hospitals not using the recommended method are advised to validate the alternative method using appropriate laboratory techniques.
ETO sterilization or cold sterilization techniques are not recommended.

9 - Re-use of the implants :
Orthopaedic implants already implanted must never be re-used.
The company accepts no responsibility for such re-use.

11 - Storage :
Store in dry place

12 - Liability :
Newdeal shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential loss, damage, or expense, directly, or indirectly arising from the use of this product. Newdeal neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume it for any other or additional liability or responsibility in connection with this product. Newdeal intends that this device should be used only by physicians having received appropriate training in orthopedic surgery techniques.

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References

Calcanea plate

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<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>180 010</td>
<td>Calcanea plate - small - green</td>
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<td>180 020</td>
<td>Calcanea plate - medium - blue</td>
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<td>180 030</td>
<td>Calcanea plate - large - purple</td>
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Locked screw diam. 3.5 mm

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<tr>
<td>180 320</td>
<td>Locking screw - length 20 mm</td>
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Variable angle screw diam. 3.5 mm

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<td>Variable angle screw - length 45 mm</td>
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Associated instruments

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>129 950</td>
<td>Sterilisation container</td>
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<tr>
<td>129 951</td>
<td>Implants tray</td>
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<tr>
<td>129 130</td>
<td>Drilling guide</td>
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<td>129 132</td>
<td>2.5 mm hexagonal screwdriver</td>
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<td>129 134</td>
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<td>Drilling sleeve</td>
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<td>119 006</td>
<td>Drill diam. 2.2 mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>or 119 016</td>
<td>AO attachment drill diam. 2.2 mm</td>
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Upon request

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<td>129 139</td>
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References