

Editorial

The current issue, in keeping with previous formats, combines a focused section with a collection of general foot and ankle techniques. The wide variety of surgical procedures presented, from calcaneotomies to phalangeal osteotomies, reflects the diverse nature of our subspecialty and the reason many of us were drawn to this discipline.

We are fortunate to have a growing number of innovative contributors. Dr Holmes presents his experience using the Mini TightRope for hallux valgus reconstruction. The opening-wedge osteotomy for bunion correction is growing in popularity, and Drs Shurnas and Watson present their technique, which has evolved over

the last few years. Less common but equally challenging problems are addressed in this issue, including navicular stress fractures, chronic anterior tibial tendon ruptures, sesamoid injuries, and first-ray shortening. In addition to choosing enlightening articles, our goal is to publish techniques that are readily applicable to your practice.

Thanks to all of our readers for their continued support! The journal's success depends on your interest, feedback, and contributions.

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SPECIAL FOCUS

Forefoot Deformity

Treatment of the adult forefoot remains a dynamic and ever-changing environment of new techniques, innovative product design and often, an examination of "old school" techniques revamped for the modern era. In fact, over the past 5 years, I can think of no area in foot and ankle surgery that has developed more interest and discussion than some of the techniques described in this special focus issue on the forefoot. It was my goal to assemble a core group of articles highlighting these advances in forefoot reconstruction.

In the treatment of bunion deformities, 2 newer techniques are described, each lending to the technical ease of an inherently difficult-to-treat problem. The opening-wedge proximal osteotomy is arguably technically easier to perform and teach than traditional osteotomies. The popularity of this procedure is, no doubt, related to this factor and its reproducible results. The Mini-TightRope is the newest and likely most controversial of the techniques presented. This is an innovative technique with potentially promising results as either a primary form of correction or an adjunct in the larger bunion deformities. Keeping with the theme, the ArthroSurface Hemi CAP prosthesis presents a modern day solution for hallux rigidus. Where past implants have failed to beat the

hallux metatarsophalangeal joint fusion results, there is hope that this implant will be a viable option for patients. Complications of bunion surgery often lead to shortening of the first metatarsal which is addressed with a technique that avoids surgery of the "normal" lesser metatarsals but focuses instead on the lengthening of the problematic first ray. This concept is not new to orthopaedics but represents a novel application for the foot and ankle surgeon. Lastly, lesser toe deformities are addressed with 2 articles revisiting familiar pathology seen with severe hallux valgus deformities: the crossover second toe, and the lesser toe varus or valgus drift. These 2 techniques round out this special forefoot section and should help prepare the surgeon to face these sometimes difficult-to-treat entities.

I am greatly indebted to the authors who have contributed to this special focus issue. I am hopeful that with time, these techniques will be proven useful and effective treatment options for the foot and ankle surgeon.

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