

**CONGENITAL INSENSITIVITY TO PAIN (CIPA): TREATMENT OF CHRONIC WOUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH A RARE HEREDITARY DISABILITY USING LOCAL MUSCULAR CUTANEOUS FLAPS**

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**Aim:** To present a retrospective case series treating a group of CIPA patients suffering from chronic ulcers involving soft tissue and bone

**Methods:**

**Subjects:** Subjects included twelve children, aged four to eleven. All subjects exhibited musculoskeletal problems ranging from minor finger/toe infections to severe morbidity of bone and joints. Infected wounds surrounding the knees and elbows that evolved to chronic ulcers characterized by slow healing and disturbances in the physiological and pathological wound healing process were relatively common.

**Setting:** This retrospective study took place at the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at both the outpatient clinic and the department's surgical section.

**Intervention:** We describe four patients suffering from deep chronic ulcers complicated by exposed cartilage and bone. These patients did not improve with conservative management and were therefore, treated surgically. Subsequent to orthopedic treatment, we used local muscular and muscular-cutaneous flaps in all patients in order to achieve wound closure.

**Results:** In three patients, complete wound closure was achieved promptly. In one patient the skin graft was rejected due to excessive knee secretions, healing was delayed but eventually complete closure was achieved.

**Conclusions:** To our knowledge this is the first series delineating wound management and closure among patients suffering from this extraordinarily rare and debilitating genetic disease. In addition to anatomic wound closure, patients regained functional use of affected limbs.