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More than thirty years follow-up of first generation proximal femur reconstruction.

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Background: At the first meeting of what became the ISOLS (1981) Bertil Stener presented a way to reconstruct the proximal femur after tumor resection using a long-stem Moore prosthesis surrounded by a cement spacer substituting the resected part of the bone. The method was, in the hands of others, modified and changed over the years without any solid basis for doing so. This small study was initiated by the admission of a patient who following trauma had a dislocated and bent prosthesis, implanted 36 years previously, according to the original method.

Patients and methods: Eleven consecutive patients with the original reconstruction and with a follow-up of 31-38 years were reviewed. Seven had metastatic lesions and 4 primary tumors. The average age at surgery was 48 years. Six were men, 5 women. The surviving patients were interviewed and had radiographic examinations.

Results: All patients with metastatic lesions were dead, mean survival 16 months. All 4 patients with primary tumors were alive, mean follow-up 36 years. One patient with a local recurrence had hemipelvectomy. The only revision was because of trauma 36 years postoperatively. The other two patients had SMTS scores of 63 percent and 93 percent.

Conclusion: The described method for reconstruction of the proximal femur after tumor resection can be characterized as safe, simple and swift. It is very cheap and particularly suitable for metastases but has proven successful in locally aggressive lesions and low-grade malignant tumors with more than 30 years follow-up.

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