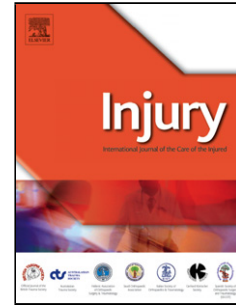


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**A solution to the vessel shortage during free vascularized fibular  
grafting for reconstructing infected bone defects of the femur:  
bridging with vein transplantation**

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**[Abstract]**

**Purpose:** The present study aimed to evaluate the feasibility and clinical efficacy of bridging vein transplantation to deal with the vessel shortage during free vascularized fibular grafting for reconstructing infected bone defects of the femur.

**Methods:** Twelve patients (aged 15-58 years) with infected bone defects of the femur (between 6.0 and 18.0 cm) were recruited in this study. Vacuum sealing drainage were applied after extensive debridement of the infected bone defects and irrigated with 0.9% sodium chloride solution for 1-2 weeks. After the drainage was clear and the focal infections were controlled, the free vascularized fibula was harvested for reconstructing the femoral bone defects. The

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