

Appendix

Two-Stage Reconstruction After Infection

The first stage of the reconstruction involved removal of the prosthesis, radical and wide debridement of all infected bone and soft tissue including the remnants of the rotator cuff, and insertion of a spacer made of antibiotic-impregnated bone cement into the infected area. All patients received parenteral antibiotic therapy for six weeks.

The second stage of the reconstruction was performed three months later, provided that the C-reactive protein level was almost normal (<5 mg/L). This stage involved the shoulder arthrodesis using free vascularized fibular graft.

Follow-up Protocol

Routine follow-up was performed at six-week intervals for the first six months, at three-month intervals until the end of the second year, at six-month intervals until the end of the fourth year, and yearly thereafter. No patient refused to participate in this review. Because of the complex nature of the reconstruction, all patients continue to receive follow-up.