A Case Report:
Limb salvage after shark attack

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Disclosure

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I have the following potential conflicts of interest to report:

- Employment in industry
- Consultant
Introduction:

- Devastating injuries with high morbidity and mortality.
- Significant soft tissue loss and considerable damage.
- The unique challenges such as exsanguination, shock, specific injury pattern and infection.
- Infections with multi-microbial flora remain one of the most difficult complications following shark attacks.
Patients and Methods:

• A 33 year old Russian man with extensive injury of his right upper leg.

• The characteristic features of the shark bite with considerable soft tissue damage and profuse bleeding.

• The paedal pulses were weak.

• Duplex U/S: ABI of the right and left lower limbs was 0.8 and >1, respectively.
Patients and Methods (cont):

The operative management:

• Proper wound washout.

• Primary repair of popliteal vein injury.

• Popliteal arteriotomy using Fogarty catheters.

• Debridement of all devitalized tissues and fasciotomy.

• Repair of the lacerated muscles and the de-gloved skin.
Results:

• The follow-up period was two weeks before repatriation.
• Consistently good paedal pulses.
• No apparent severe infection.
• Fairly good viability of the repaired muscles and skin.
Conclusion:

- Injury to major vascular structures increases the mortality.

- The outcome following shark bite depends on:
  - Proper resuscitation.
  - Washout and debridement.
  - Prevention of infection.
  - Reconstruction of more complex wounds.
  - Physical rehabilitation and psychological support.
Thank You
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