

Third-Generation Minimally Invasive Chevron and Akin Osteotomies (MICA) in Hallux Valgus Surgery

Two-Year Follow-up of 292 Cases

Thomas L. Lewis, MBChB(Hons), BSc(Hons), MRCS, Robbie Ray, MBChB, ChM(T&O), FRCSEd(T&O), FEBOT, George Miller, BSc, MBBS, and David J. Gordon, MBChB, MRCS, MD, FRCS(T&O)

Investigation performed at The London Clinic, London, United Kingdom

Background: There is interest in hallux valgus deformity correction using internal fixation with the minimally invasive chevron and Akin osteotomies (MICA) technique. The objective of this study was to assess the correction measured on postoperative radiographs and clinical outcomes, using validated outcome measures, at 2 years following third-generation MICA.

Methods: This is a prospective single-surgeon case series of 333 consecutive feet that underwent MICA surgery between July 2014 and April 2018. The primary clinical outcome measures included the Manchester-Oxford Foot Questionnaire (MOXFQ), EuroQol-5 Dimensions-5 Level (EQ-5D-5L) Index, EuroQol-visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS), and a VAS for pain (VAS-pain). Secondary outcome measures included radiographic parameters and complication rates.

Results: Preoperative and 2-year postoperative patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) were collected for 292 feet (87.7%). At a minimum 2-year follow-up, the MOXFQ scores (mean \pm standard deviation [SD]) had improved in each domain—i.e., reduced from 44.5 ± 21.0 preoperatively to 9.4 ± 15.8 postoperatively for pain ($p < 0.001$), from 38.7 ± 23.4 to 6.5 ± 14.6 for walking and standing ($p < 0.001$), and from 48.0 ± 22.3 to 6.6 ± 13.5 for social interaction ($p < 0.001$). The VAS-pain score improved from 31.4 ± 22.7 preoperatively to 8.4 ± 16.4 at the 2-year follow-up ($p < 0.001$), the 1-2 intermetatarsal angle was reduced from $15.3^\circ \pm 3.6^\circ$ preoperatively to $5.7^\circ \pm 3.2^\circ$ at the 2-year follow-up ($p < 0.001$), and the hallux valgus angle was reduced from $32.9^\circ \pm 10.2^\circ$ to $8.7^\circ \pm 5.2^\circ$ ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: The third-generation MICA provided significant improvement in clinical outcome measures at the 2-year follow-up and can be successfully used for correction of a range of hallux valgus deformities with a low rate of symptomatic recurrence.

Level of Evidence: Therapeutic Level IV. See Instructions for Authors for a complete description of levels of evidence.

Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) for hallux valgus has clinical and radiographic outcomes comparable with those of traditional open osteotomy approaches¹⁻³.

Third-generation MIS for hallux valgus involves screw fixation of a distal metatarsal osteotomy site, resulting in greater stability than is provided by previous generations of the technique^{4,5}. The MIS procedure has a learning curve of approximately 20 to 50 cases^{6,7}. Advocates suggest that once technical proficiency has been achieved, potential benefits include reduced

operative time, reduced morbidity, smaller scars, and quicker recovery compared with traditional open procedures^{1-3,8,9}.

Previous studies of third-generation MIS have demonstrated improved clinical and radiographic outcomes for a wide range of hallux valgus deformities⁸⁻¹⁶. These studies are limited in number and consist of case series with small sample sizes, short follow-up, unvalidated outcomes, inconsistent techniques, and a high risk of bias. There is also substantial variability in the reporting of complications, with rates ranging from

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0% to 42%^{1,2}. There is a need for evidence based on validated patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) to assess third-generation MIS for hallux valgus. Thus, the aim of the present study was to measure the change in PROMs at 2 years, assess deformity correction on radiographs made in the immediate postoperative period, and report the prevalence of complications following third-generation minimally invasive chevron and Akin osteotomies (MICA) for hallux valgus.

Materials and Methods

Third-Generation MICA Technique

The surgical technique was adapted as described by Redfern and Vernois⁸ and was similar for all cases. An extra-articular chevron osteotomy was made through a percutaneous incision at the metatarsal neck. Following displacement of the metatarsal head, the osteotomy site was fixed with 2 parallel screws. Medial ledge excision was performed, and any prominent medial exostosis were excised. A percutaneous Akin osteotomy and a lateral release of the first metatarsophalangeal joint (involving division of the lateral sesamoid-phalangeal ligament) were only performed if required to fully correct the hallux valgus deformity and restore first metatarsophalangeal joint congruity. Patients were allowed full weight-bearing in a flat rigid sandal immediately and were discharged the same day.

Study Design

This study was a prospective observational single-surgeon case series of consecutive patients.

Participants

Consecutive patients ≥ 16 years of age who underwent primary correction of hallux valgus (of any deformity severity) were included. Patients who underwent additional forefoot procedures—e.g., hammer-toe correction or distal metaphyseal metatarsal osteotomy—were included, but those who previously had hallux valgus surgery or had degenerative joint disease of the first ray were excluded.

Indications for MICA

Clinical judgment was used to decide on the indication for surgery. Symptoms included discomfort/pain in the medial eminence in footwear, transfer metatarsalgia, and/or symptomatic lesser-toe deformities associated with hallux valgus.

Data Collection

Each patient completed preoperative PROMs using a tablet device, remotely connected to PROM software (Amplitude Clinical Outcomes), during their first consultation. The PROMs were specifically designed for electronic completion by patients. Procedure data and intraoperative and/or postoperative complication data were inputted prospectively by the senior author (D.J.G.). The software automatically sent patients PROM questionnaires via email 2 years following the surgery. Those who did not complete these 2-year postoperative PROMs were contacted again via email and/or by telephone to prompt them to do so.

Outcome Measures and Study End Point

The clinical PROMs assessed were the EuroQol-5 Dimensions-5 Level (EQ-5D-5L) Index, EuroQol visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS), a VAS for pain (VAS-pain), and the Manchester-Oxford Foot Questionnaire (MOXFQ).

The EQ-5D-5L and EQ-VAS are validated quality-of-life assessment measures. The VAS-pain is a validated measure of acute and chronic pain¹⁷. The MOXFQ is a PROM used specifically for patients undergoing foot surgery and has been validated for assessment of those undergoing hallux valgus surgery¹⁸⁻²⁰. The MOXFQ consists of 3 domains (walking and standing, social interaction [based on the patient's self-consciousness regarding their feet/shoes as well as the overall impact on social, recreational, work, and other everyday activities], and pain), with the score in each domain ranging from 0 (best possible score) to 100 (worst possible score). An overall summary "index" score was also calculated²¹. A detailed explanation of the MOXFQ can be found in the Appendix. The minimal clinically important difference (MCID) has been shown to be 16, 12, and 24 for the walking and standing, pain, and social interaction domains, respectively¹⁹.

Preoperative and 6-week postoperative weight-bearing radiographs were obtained to quantify preoperative and postoperative deformity correction (not recurrence). Radiographic parameters were measured retrospectively for all patients, in February 2020, by 1 of 2 fellowship-trained consultant surgeons (1 of whom [D.J.G.] performed all of the procedures). The 1-2 intermetatarsal angle (IMA) and hallux valgus angle (HVA) were measured according to the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society technique and categorized with regard to deformity severity^{22,23}.

Operations performed on both feet of the same patient were usually carried out consecutively; however, there were a number of simultaneous cases. Patients who underwent consecutive procedures completed a set of PROMs before each operation in order to accurately reflect their health status at that point in time. Simultaneous bilateral cases were included as independent observations, as the MOXFQ is foot-specific¹⁸.

We selected the minimum 2-year follow-up because the existing literature on the results of third-generation MICA at this time point is extremely limited and of variable quality.

Complications identified by either the patient or the surgeon in outpatient clinics were registered on electronic PROM software at the point of diagnosis. We modified the Adapted Clavien-Dindo-Sink complication classification^{24,25} for hallux valgus surgery (Table I) and categorized all complications following a retrospective case review. Complication data were routinely collected for all patients until discharge from follow up (usually 6 months following surgery) and, beyond this, complication data were identified only if the patient reported it.

Bias

The use of consecutive prospectively collected data reduced selection bias. The operating surgeon (D.J.G.) had performed approximately 100 MICA procedures before the start of this study, potentially reducing "learning curve errors."²⁷ These cases are not

TABLE I Adverse Events and Complications Following Third-Generation MICA

Grade/Description of Complication	No. of Cases	% of Cases (95% CI)
Grade I: adverse event with minimal clinical relevance that causes no deviation from routine follow-up during the postoperative period. Therapeutic regimens include analgesia, antibiotics, and physiotherapy. Complications include:	25	7.5 (4.7, 10.3)
Delayed wound-healing	2	0.6
Superficial cellulitis (requiring oral antibiotics)	15	4.5
Transient neurapraxia*	3	0.9
FHL tendon injury*	5	1.5
Grade II: complication that is treatable but does not require additional surgical intervention or an unplanned hospital admission. Complications include:	20	6.0 (3.5, 8.6)
Additional intraoperative fixation (e.g., Kirschner wire, additional screw)	6	1.8
Symptomatic osteotomy site displacement*	1	0.3
Symptomatic delayed union*	5	1.5
Transfer metatarsalgia/sesamoid pain	3	0.9
Intraoperative conversion to open surgery	2	0.6
Symptomatic recurrence of hallux valgus deformity	3	0.9
Grade III: complication that is treatable and requires surgical intervention or an unplanned hospital admission. Complications include:	26	7.8 (4.9, 10.7)
Osteotomy site displacement: bone-screw interface failure (fracture/screw cutout)	6	1.8
Osteotomy site displacement: delayed union/malunion/nonunion	4	1.2
Symptomatic prominent screw(s)	8	2.4
Prominent bone	4	1.2
Deep infection requiring surgical debridement and washout	4	1.2
All-cause screw-removal rate	21	6.3 (3.7, 8.9)

*Not requiring operative intervention.

included in this report because electronic data collection methods did not commence until 2014. Due to a change in practice setting, it was not possible to follow these cases.

Blinding

The 2 authors (D.J.G. and R.R.) who performed the radiographic assessment and complication analysis were blinded to the PROM outcomes when doing so to reduce bias.

Statistical Analysis Including Calculation of Study Size

A post-hoc power analysis was performed, and sample size calculations were based on an independently established MOXFQ MCID following hallux valgus surgery¹⁹. A sample of 208 feet was estimated to give a power of 0.99 and an alpha risk of 1%. A paired t test for parametric data and a Wilcoxon signed rank test for non-parametric data were used. All analyses were performed with the Python SciPy package²⁶. Significance was defined as $p < 0.05$.

Associations between preoperative clinical and radiographic variables and the change in the 2-year MOXFQ index

score compared with preoperatively were identified with a multivariable linear regression model built using ordinary least squares regression.

IDEAL Stage

This study followed Stage 2B of the IDEAL (Idea, Development, Exploration, Assessment, Long-term Follow-up) Framework²⁷.

Ethical Approval

Local institutional review board approval was obtained, and all participants provided informed consent.

Results

Patient Demographics

Between July 2014 and April 2018, 230 consecutive patients (214 female and 16 male) with a mean age of 55.0 years (range, 23.5 to 84.9 years; standard deviation [SD], 12.1 years) underwent primary MICA. A total of 333 feet (166 left and 167 right) were treated. Sixty-nine patients had the operation performed on both feet (a total

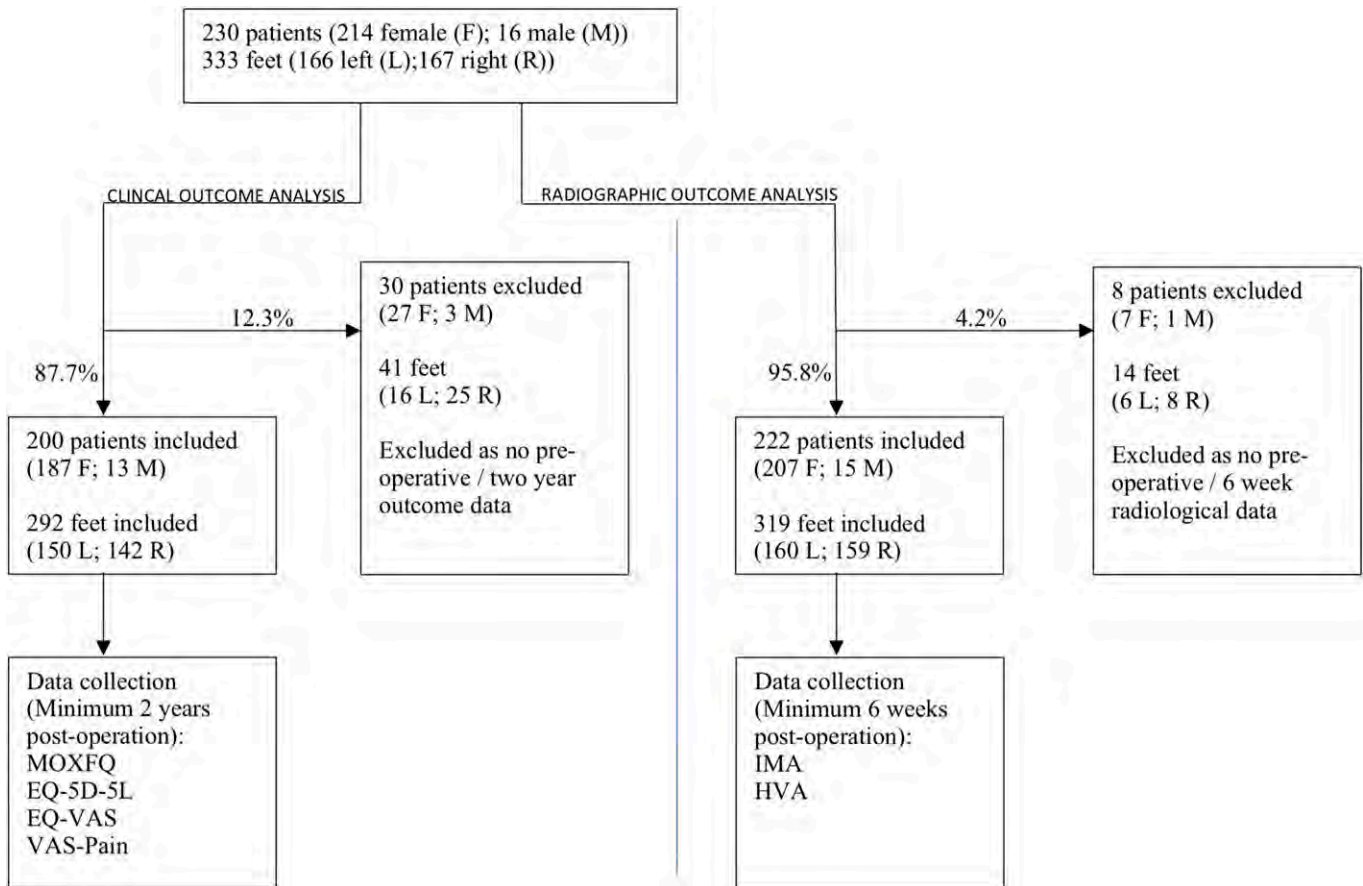


Fig. 1
A flowchart of patient participation in this study including the proportions analyzed for clinical and radiographic outcomes.

of 138 feet; 41.4%) on the same day. Figure 1 demonstrates the participant flowchart for clinical and radiographic analysis.

PROMs

Preoperative and 2-year PROMs were collected from 200 patients (187 female and 13 male) with 292 involved feet (150 left and 142

right). Thus, the PROM completion rate was 87.7% (292 of 333). The mean follow-up was 2.5 years (range, 2.0 to 5.5 years). A summary of the PROM scores is provided in Table II. There was a significant improvement that was greater than the MCID in each of the MOXFQ domains¹⁹. The quality-of-life assessment PROMs all improved significantly with the exception of the EQ-VAS.

TABLE II Preoperative and Minimum 24-Month Postoperative PROM Scores Following Third-Generation MICA *							
Outcome Measure	Preoperative Score		Postoperative Score		Change in Score		P Value
	Mean ± SD	Median (IQR)	Mean ± SD	Median (IQR)	Mean ± SD	95% CI	
MOXFQ							
Walking and standing	38.7 ± 23.4	39.0 (18.0-57.0)	6.5 ± 14.6	0.0 (0.0-1.0)	-32.2 ± 25.5	-33.7, -30.7	<0.001
Social interaction	48.0 ± 22.3	50.0 (31.0-63.0)	6.6 ± 13.5	0.0 (0.0-6.0)	-41.3 ± 24.7	-42.8, -39.9	<0.001
Pain	44.5 ± 21.0	45.0 (30.0-60.0)	9.4 ± 15.8	0.0 (0.0-15.0)	-35.1 ± 23.7	-36.5, -33.7	<0.001
Index	42.8 ± 19.8	45.3 (26.8-58.4)	7.4 ± 13.2	0.0 (0.0-7.8)	-35.4 ± 21.9	-36.7, -34.1	<0.001
EQ-5D-5L Index	0.75 ± 0.14	0.77 (0.71-0.84)	0.90 ± 0.13	1.00 (0.84-1.00)	0.17 ± 0.16	0.15, 0.18	<0.001
EQ-VAS	83.5 ± 14.9	88.0 (79.0-92.0)	84.2 ± 16.9	89.0 (80.0-95.0)	0.8 ± 18.5	-2.1, 0.5	0.563
VAS-pain	31.4 ± 22.7	27.0 (12.0-49.0)	8.4 ± 16.4	1.0 (0.0-8.0)	-22.9 ± 26.4	-24.7, -21.2	<0.001

*SD = standard deviation, IQR = interquartile range, CI = confidence interval, MOXFQ = Manchester-Oxford Foot Questionnaire, and VAS = visual analogue scale.



Fig. 2
Radiographs made before (left) and 6 weeks (middle) and 6 months (right) after a third-generation MICA with screw fixation. The patient had union of the osteotomy site and resolution of soft-tissue swelling.

Radiographic Outcomes

Deformity correction was measured on preoperative and 6-week postoperative radiographs for 95.8% (319) of the feet (Fig. 2). There was a significant improvement in the IMA and HVA on the 6-week postoperative radiographs (Tables III and Tables IV). The maximum IMA correction was 21.2° (from 27.0° preoperatively to 5.8° at 6 weeks) while the maximum HVA correction was 51.3° (from 53.8° to 2.5°).

Complications

The grades and rates of complications are shown in Table I. The rate of grade-2 and 3 complications combined was 13.8%, and the overall complication rate was 21.3% (95% confidence interval [CI] = 16.9% to 25.7%). The all-cause screw-removal rate was 6.3% ($n = 21$ feet). Three feet (0.9%) had clinical and radiographic evidence of recurrent hallux valgus following the MICA. One of these recurrences was due to undercorrection by the chevron osteotomy and failure of the Akin osteotomy screw due to cutout, the second was due to undercorrection by the chevron osteotomy, and the third was due to soft-tissue stretching over a prolonged

period of time. One case of chevron screw cutout required revision MICA fixation.

Patients with postoperative displacement of the osteotomy site had ongoing clinical and radiographic follow-up until union occurred. Osteotomy site displacement occasionally resulted in metatarsal shortening (which was not measured) and/or minor loss of correction by the time of osseous union; however, none of these cases met the criteria for recurrence.

A grade-1 complication of note was flexor hallucis longus (FHL) tendon injury (prevalence = 1.5%); this may have occurred during the lateral release as the FHL may have displaced to a lateral position, which can happen particularly in cases with severe deformities. FHL tendon injury has not been commonly reported, which we believe is most likely due to the small case numbers previously published and the subtle clinical consequences of the complication. A recent cadaveric study from the Groupe de Recherche et d'Etude en Chirurgie Minimally Invasive du Pied (GRECMIP) showed 1 case of complete FHL tendon laceration in 22 feet²⁸, supporting our suspicion that this complication is underreported in the literature.

There were no cases of osteonecrosis of the first metatarsal head or symptomatic dorsal or plantar malunion, although the study procedures were not designed to detect them. There were no clinically apparent deep vein thromboses or pulmonary emboli at any point during follow-up.

Multivariable Linear Regression Analysis

The results of the multivariable linear regression model are shown in Table V. We identified a ceiling effect of the MOXFQ index score at 2 years and therefore decided to utilize the 2-year change in MOXFQ index score compared with preoperatively as the outcome measure. The R^2 of the model was 0.912. The only radiographic variable significantly associated with the change in the MOXFQ index score was the change in the HVA. Neither preoperative nor postoperative deformity as measured on radiographs was associated with the change in the MOXFQ index score. We also did not find an association between the EQ-5D PROMs and the change in the MOXFQ index score.

TABLE III Radiographic Hallux Valgus Deformity Categories

Category*	No. (%) of Feet
Mild: HVA 15° to $<20^\circ$ and/or IMA 9° to $<14^\circ$	25 (7.8%)
Moderate: HVA 20° to $<40^\circ$ and/or IMA 14° to $<20^\circ$	209 (65.5%)
Severe: HVA $\geq 40^\circ$ and/or IMA $\geq 20^\circ$	85 (26.6%)
Total	319

*HVA = hallux valgus angle, and IMA = 1-2 intermetatarsal angle. When the HVA and IMA in the same patient did not fit into the same category, the more severe of the 2 angles was used to represent the severity of the deformity²⁰.

TABLE IV Hallux Valgus Correction Data*

	IMA (deg)				HVA (deg)			
	Preop.	Postop.	Mean Deformity Correction	P Value	Preop.	Postop.	Mean Deformity Correction	P Value
Mean ± SD	15.3 ± 3.6	5.7 ± 3.2	9.6 ± 3.8	<0.001	32.9 ± 10.2	8.7 ± 5.2	24.1 ± 9.7	<0.001
Minimum	6.5	-0.7 (valgus)			8.6	-4.1 (varus)		
Maximum	27.0	18.1			63.9	32.1		

*IMA = 1-2 intermetatarsal angle, HVA = hallux valgus angle, and SD = standard deviation,

Discussion

To our knowledge, this prospective study is the largest series of third-generation MICA procedures demonstrating, with use of validated outcome measures, the effectiveness of the technique for hallux valgus deformity correction.

MOXFQ Score

The MOXFQ is a PROM specifically validated for the assessment of hallux valgus¹⁹. A significant improvement between preoperatively and 2 years postoperatively was demonstrated in all domains (walking and standing, social interaction, and pain). The mean improvement in each domain was greater than the MCID, demonstrating the clinical efficacy of MICA¹⁹. Table VI shows that the mean MOXFQ scores were lower than those in other studies investigating the third-generation MICA technique^{12,13,16}. As in those other studies, we demonstrated a significant improvement in social interaction following hallux

valgus surgery, suggesting that the patients' self-consciousness regarding their feet and shoes as well as the adverse overall impact of the deformity on social, recreational, work, and other everyday activities significantly decreased following surgery. The mean preoperative and postoperative scores were lower than those in the comparative studies, which may reflect the different practice settings, sample size, and follow-up duration. The use of validated PROMs allows comparison with other osteotomy techniques for correction of hallux valgus. For example, this study demonstrated a greater mean improvement in every MOXFQ domain compared with a large study using the scarf osteotomy technique¹⁹.

There was a significant improvement in quality of life as reflected by the EQ-5D-5L Index and VAS-pain score although no significant change in the EQ-VAS score. This is likely due to the latter scale measuring an overall quality of health and potentially not being sensitive enough to pick up changes

TABLE V Variables Included in Model and Calculated Coefficients to Predict Change in MOXFQ Index Score at 2 Years*

Preop. Variable†	Coefficient	SE	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P Value
MOXFQ					
Pain	0.094	0.070	1.09	0.96-1.26	0.182
Social interaction	0.383	0.062	1.47	1.30-1.66	<0.001
Walking/standing	0.454	0.071	1.57	1.37-1.81	<0.001
Radiographic deformity					
Preop. IMA	0.338	0.203	1.40	0.94-2.09	0.098
Preop. HVA	0.022	0.086	1.02	0.86-1.21	0.796
Postop. IMA	0.049	0.211	1.05	0.69-1.59	0.818
Postop. HVA	0.207	0.126	1.23	0.96-1.58	0.103
IMA deformity correction	0.289	0.182	1.34	0.93-1.91	0.114
HVA deformity correction	-0.185	0.090	0.83	0.70-0.99	0.042
EQ-5D-5L Index	-6.565	8.892	<0.01	<0.01->100	0.461
EQ-VAS	0.113	0.072	1.12	0.97-1.29	0.121
VAS-pain	-0.073	0.048	0.93	0.85-1.02	0.135
Age	-0.224	0.086	0.80	0.67-0.95	0.010

*SE = standard error of coefficient, CI = confidence interval for odds ratio, MOXFQ = Manchester-Oxford Foot Questionnaire, IMA = 1-2 intermetatarsal angle, and HVA = hallux valgus angle. †Bolded variables indicate a significant association.

following hallux valgus correction. Lai et al. found an improvement in both physical and mental function subscale scores of the Short Form-36 (SF-36) quality-of-life assessment measure following MIS osteotomies; however, they did not report if this was statistically significant⁹.

Radiographic Outcomes

This study included a wide range of hallux valgus deformities, with >25% categorized as “severe” preoperatively. The mean preoperative IMA and HVA and postoperative deformity correction in this study were greater than or comparable with those in other series^{8-10,12-16,29,30} (Table VI). This supports the view that MICA can be used to treat a wide range of deformity severity. However, radiographic follow-up was not routinely extended beyond 6 weeks; therefore, it is unknown whether the HVA and IMA correction is maintained over time. Rates of hallux valgus recurrence after surgery have been reported to be as high as 16%³¹. The rate of symptomatic recurrence was only 0.9% in our study, although radiographs were not obtained after 6 weeks unless there were clinical concerns. Therefore, we are unable to be certain about the radiographic recurrence rate after MICA. The HVA and IMA can progressively deteriorate following hallux valgus correction³²; however, Kaufmann et al. found only minor loss of HVA/IMA correction between 6 weeks and 12 weeks, 9 months, and 5 years after use of a second-generation MIS technique³³.

Complications

First and second-generation percutaneous hallux valgus surgery (without internal fixation) has been shown to be followed by high rates of loss of correction or malunion³⁴ with complication rates ranging between 0% and 42%^{10,35}. Higher complication rates have

been associated with early-learning-curve experiences as this is a technically demanding procedure that requires specific training and performing approximately 20 to 50 cases to reach technical proficiency^{6,7}. The overall adverse-event rate in this study was 21.3% although the rate of major complications (necessitating a return to the operating theater) was 7.8%, including a deep infection rate of 1.2%. The all-cause screw-removal rate was 6.3%, which was lower than that in the majority of other third-generation-MIS studies (Table VI). There were no patient-reported cases of stiffness of the first metatarsophalangeal joint or metatarsal head osteonecrosis, as others have reported^{1,3,35,36}, although we did not typically obtain radiographs beyond 6 weeks postoperatively. The complication rates that we reported are comparable with those in other series of third-generation MIS, as seen in Table VI, although there is substantial variation in the quality of complication reporting in the MIS literature.

Multivariable Linear Regression Analysis

The model identified that the significant factors affecting the change in the MOXFQ index score following MICA are the preoperative MOXFQ scores in the social interaction and walking/standing domains, change in the HVA, and age. The effect of the other variables on the change in the MOXFQ index score varied but none were statistically significant. The multivariable linear regression results are consistent with expected findings in clinical practice—for example, patients with an improvement in the HVA may well be expected to have an improvement in their MOXFQ index score. The preoperative MOXFQ pain score was not significantly related to the change in the MOXFQ index score 2 years following surgery. We were unable to identify other studies performing regression analysis for minimally invasive hallux valgus surgery, which prevented us from making

TABLE VI MOXFQ and Radiographic Outcomes from Other Studies Investigating Third-Generation Minimally Invasive Osteotomies for Hallux Valgus Correction*

Studies Reporting Third-Generation MIS	No. of Feet	Mean Follow-up (mo)	Mean Preop./Postop. MOXFQ Score			Mean Preop./Postop. Radiographic Deformity (deg)		Adverse Event or Complication Rate (%)	Screw-Removal Rate (%)
			Pain	Walking/Standing	Social Interaction	IMA	HVA		
Present study	292	30	44.5/9.4	38.7/6.5	48.0/6.6	15.3/5.7	32.9/8.7	21.3	6.3
Brogan et al. ¹² (2014)	45	6	50.8/17.4	43.2/9.8	47.6/13.1	14.6/7.1	30.5/10.4	6.67	2.2
Brogan et al. ¹⁶ (2016)	48	24	49.2/16.5	42.6/9.2	49.2/24.3	11.7/4.4	26.6/10.4	18.8	8.3
Holme et al. ¹³ (2020)	40	12	65.6/10.9	56.3/8.7	53.4/9.7	13.2/6.7	31.7/12.1	10.0	10.0
Lee et al. ¹⁵ (2017)	25	6				15.6/6.4	31.4/7.6	13.3	24.0
Jowett and Bedi ¹⁰ (2017)	106	25				14/7.6	29.7/10.3	42	15.1
Lucas y Hernandez et al. ¹⁴ (2016)	45	60				11.8/7.9	26.6/9.6	15.5	8.9
Frigg et al. ²⁹ (2019)	48	24				13/6	25/7	31.3	27.1
Lam et al. ³⁰ (2015)	23	18				13.8/8.0	31.7/14.4	17	26.1
Redfern and Vernois ⁸ (2016)	100	12-36				14.5/5.5	33.7/7.3	2	2.1
Lai et al. ⁹ (2018)	29	24				14.6/10.3	29.9/8.8	0	16.7

*MOXFQ = Manchester-Oxford Foot Questionnaire, IMA = 1-2 intermetatarsal angle, and HVA = hallux valgus angle.

comparisons. However, Chong et al. performed regression analysis on a population consisting predominantly of patients treated with scarf osteotomies and found no association between radiographic evidence of severity or the degree of correction and the MOXFQ score; the latter finding contradicts ours³⁷.

Strengths

The strengths of this study include the large number of feet (292 for the MOXFQ analysis and 319 for the radiographic analysis) and utilization of validated outcome measures. Data were collected prospectively for consecutive patients, and there was an in-depth analysis of all adverse events. There was consistency in operative technique, as it was a single-surgeon series (accounting for the learning curve). Patients with a severe HVA or IMA were not excluded from surgery, enabling a valid assessment of third-generation MICA for a large spectrum of deformities. The duration of and small loss to follow-up provide representative insight into the 2-year outcomes of this technique.

Limitations

The main limitation of this study is the lack of long-term radiographic follow-up, which may lead to a different estimation of the recurrence rate, osteonecrosis, and degenerative changes. Radiographic assessments were based on imaging performed 6 weeks postoperatively, when incomplete weight-bearing on the medial column may have potentially altered the “true” IMA and HVA³⁸. Also, the high female sex proportion in this cohort may reduce the applicability of this procedure in males. In addition, because there was no comparator cohort, we were unable to compare MICA with other osteotomy techniques.

Generalizability


The results are generalizable to the wider population of patients once the practicing surgeon has achieved technical proficiency. The range of preoperative deformities and the pragmatic treatment of related lesser-toe abnormalities reflect true clinical practice. The

PROMs used are validated and will allow surgeons to draw a comparison between studies of different osteotomy techniques.

Conclusions

The third-generation MICA technique provided significant improvement in clinical measures at a 2-year follow-up with a low rate of symptomatic recurrence in our study of a wide range of hallux valgus deformities. Future research with radiographic and comparative studies to define the role of MICA in treatment for hallux valgus is required.

Appendix

 Supporting material provided by the authors is posted with the online version of this article as a data supplement at [jbjs.org \(http://links.lww.com/JBJS/G426\)](http://links.lww.com/JBJS/G426). ■

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Thomas L. Lewis, MBChB(Hons), BSc(Hons), MRCS¹
Robbie Ray, MBChB, ChM(T&O), FRCSEd(T&O), FEBOT¹
George Miller, BSc, MBBS²
David J. Gordon, MBChB, MRCS, MD, FRCS(T&O)³

¹King's Foot and Ankle Unit, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

²Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

³The London Clinic, London, United Kingdom

Email address for D.J. Gordon: research@davidgordonortho.com

ORCID iD for T.L. Lewis: [0000-0002-4167-7427](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4167-7427)

ORCID iD for R. Ray: [0000-0002-7411-9720](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7411-9720)

ORCID iD for G. Miller: [0000-0002-3687-9876](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3687-9876)

ORCID iD for D.J. Gordon: [0000-0003-2188-7766](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2188-7766)

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