



Reverse total shoulder arthroplasty

Filippo Familiari¹

Jorge Rojas²

Mahmut Nedim Doral³

Gazi Huri³

Edward G. McFarland²

- Since the introduction of reverse total shoulder arthroplasty (RTSA) in 1987 (in Europe) and 2004 (in the United States), the number of RTSAs performed annually has increased.
- Although the main indication for RTSA has been rotator cuff tears, indications have expanded to include several shoulder conditions, many of which involve dysfunction of the rotator cuff.
- RTSA complications have been reported to affect 19% to 68% of patients and include acromial fracture, haematoma, infection, instability, mechanical baseplate failure, neurological injury, periprosthetic fracture and scapular notching.
- Current controversies in RTSA include optimal baseplate positioning, humeral neck-shaft angle (135° versus 155°), glenosphere placement (medial, lateral or bony increased offset RTSA) and subscapularis repair.
- Improvements in prosthesis design, surgeon experience and clinical results will need to occur to optimize this treatment for many shoulder conditions.

Keywords: reverse total shoulder arthroplasty; indications; contraindications; clinical outcomes; complications

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Introduction

Traditionally, anatomical total shoulder arthroplasty (TSA) has been used to treat the shoulder joint with end-stage glenohumeral osteoarthritis (OA) and an intact rotator cuff. However, loosening of the glenoid component remains a common cause of failure after TSA, leading to revision surgery in 0.8% of TSAs per year.¹⁻³ Alternatives to TSA are cup arthroplasty, hemi-arthroplasty (HA) and interpositional allografts with HA. For patients without a

rotator cuff or with rotator cuff tear arthropathy, the traditional treatment was HA. Unfortunately, HA for these indications provided unpredictable pain relief and little improvement in range of motion (ROM) or function.⁴

In the 1970s, Beddow and Alloy were using a prototype reverse shoulder arthroplasty in Liverpool for patients with rheumatoid arthritis but did not publish the results. In 1987, Grammont et al⁵ introduced the reverse total shoulder arthroplasty (RTSA) to treat rotator cuff tear arthropathy. RTSA was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2004,⁶ and the number of RTSAs performed annually increased dramatically.⁷ Approximately 10 000 RTSAs were performed in the USA in 2007, a fivefold increase over 2004. Estimates indicate that 30 000 RTSAs were performed in 2012.⁷ To assess the contribution of RTSA to overall use of primary shoulder arthroplasty, Jain and Yamaguchi⁸ used the Nationwide Inpatient Sample from 2009 through 2011. They found that the use of primary shoulder arthroplasty increased significantly during that period, with a major contribution from RTSA, which accounted for 42% of all primary shoulder arthroplasties in 2011.⁸

Indications and contraindications

Although the most common indication for RTSA is rotator cuff tear arthroplasty (Fig. 1), indications have expanded to include several conditions and situations that were difficult to treat with anatomical shoulder arthroplasty, such as acute proximal humerus fracture, chronic locked dislocation, chronic pseudoparalysis caused by irreparable rotator cuff without arthritis, glenohumeral arthritis with severe glenoid bone loss, immunological arthritis with or without associated rotator cuff tears, malunited/nonunited proximal humerus fracture, failed shoulder arthroplasty and tumours.⁹⁻¹⁵ Many of these conditions involve dysfunction of the rotator cuff. Appropriate candidates for RTSA now include young patients, who have shown

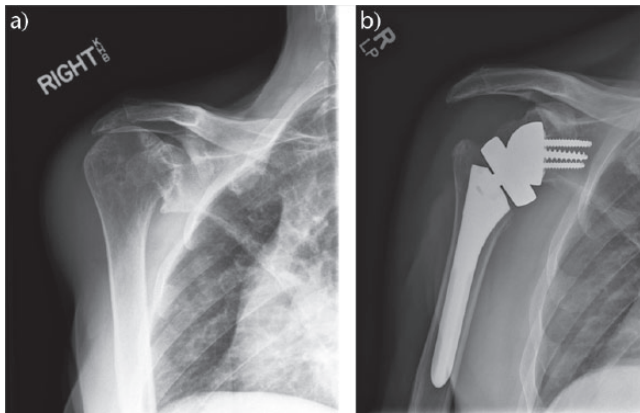


Fig. 1 a) Anteroposterior (AP) radiograph of a shoulder with rotator cuff tear arthropathy showing superior joint space narrowing; b) post-operative radiograph of RTSA.

excellent clinical improvement with high implant survivorship of up to 12 years.¹⁶⁻²¹

Contraindications to RTSA include axillary nerve damage, a non-functioning deltoid muscle, glenoid vault deficiency precluding baseplate fixation, infection and neuropathic joints.²² Lädemann et al²³ showed that, in certain circumstances, pre-operative deltoid impairment is not an absolute contraindication to RTSA. Although mild deltoid dysfunction may be tolerated by patients who can experience pain relief from the procedure, it is important for patients to understand that their ROM and function may not improve.

Patients undergoing RTSA should be aware of its high rate of intra-operative and post-operative complications. There is also concern about clinical deterioration at approximately ten years after implantation of the Grammont-type prostheses.²⁴ Werner et al²⁵ showed that a higher baseline American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES) score and an intact rotator cuff at the time of surgery correlated with little improvement after RTSA. Male sex, depression, total number of medical comorbidities, and receipt of workers compensation also correlated with little post-operative improvement.^{25,26} Patient age and indication for surgery were not correlated with little improvement after RTSA.²⁵

Clinical outcomes according to indication

Rotator cuff tear arthropathy

Rotator cuff tear arthropathy is one of the most reliable indications for RTSA.²⁶⁻³⁰ Favard et al²⁸ retrospectively reviewed data from 506 patients with 527 RTSAs from 1985 through 2003 and reported an implant survivorship rate of 89% at ten years. Accordingly, in a study of 484 patients followed for a mean of 4.3 years, Favard et al²⁸ reported improvements in patient-reported outcomes (i.e. Constant-Murley score), significant improvements in pain

relief and improved elevation from a mean of 71° to 130°. At a mean of 4.3 years after surgery, 90% of patients were satisfied or very satisfied with the outcome of surgery. Werner et al³⁰ retrospectively reviewed the results of 58 consecutive patients (mean age 68 years) who had undergone a Grammont-type RTSA. They reported significant improvements in patient-reported outcomes (i.e. subjective shoulder value and Constant-Murley score), improved elevation from a mean of 42° to 100° and improved abduction from a mean of 43° to 90°. Frankle et al²⁹ reported results of 60 patients (mean age 71 years) with 60 rotator cuff tear arthropathies treated with RTSA who were followed for a minimum of two years. They reported significant improvements in patient-reported outcomes (i.e. ASES score), improved abduction from a mean of 41° to 102° and improved elevation from a mean of 55° to 105°.

Pseudoparalysis caused by massive, irreparable rotator cuff tear without OA

Several studies have reported results of RTSA in patients with massive, irreparable rotator cuff tears without OA in whom the major symptom was severe loss of ROM (i.e. pseudoparalysis) (Fig. 2).^{27,31,32}

Recently, a systematic review with meta-analysis and meta-regression reported that patients with massive, irreparable rotator cuff tears without OA have a high likelihood of achieving a painless shoulder and functional improvements after RTSA.³³ Wall et al³² found no difference in outcomes among patients with massive rotator cuff tears and no associated arthritis *versus* those who underwent primary RTSA for rotator cuff tear arthropathy. Boileau et al²⁷ found that RTSA improved function for patients with pseudoparalysis and those with rotator cuff-deficient shoulders after failure of previous rotator cuff surgery, but results were inferior to those of primary RTSA for patients with massive rotator cuff tears or rotator cuff tear arthropathy.

Acute proximal humerus fracture

HA was traditionally the treatment of choice for three- and four-part proximal humerus fractures.^{34,35} Because of less than optimal results with this approach, open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) gained popularity, especially for younger patients.³⁶ However, the results of both HA and ORIF are unpredictable because of dependence on anatomical tuberosity healing.^{32,37,38} The complication and failure rates of ORIF to treat shoulder fractures can be high.³⁹ RTSA may be a more reliable treatment for complex proximal humerus fractures because its functional outcomes appear to depend less on tuberosity healing and rotator cuff integrity (Fig. 3).^{40,41} However, some authors have suggested that tuberosity repair is associated with increased external rotation compared with no

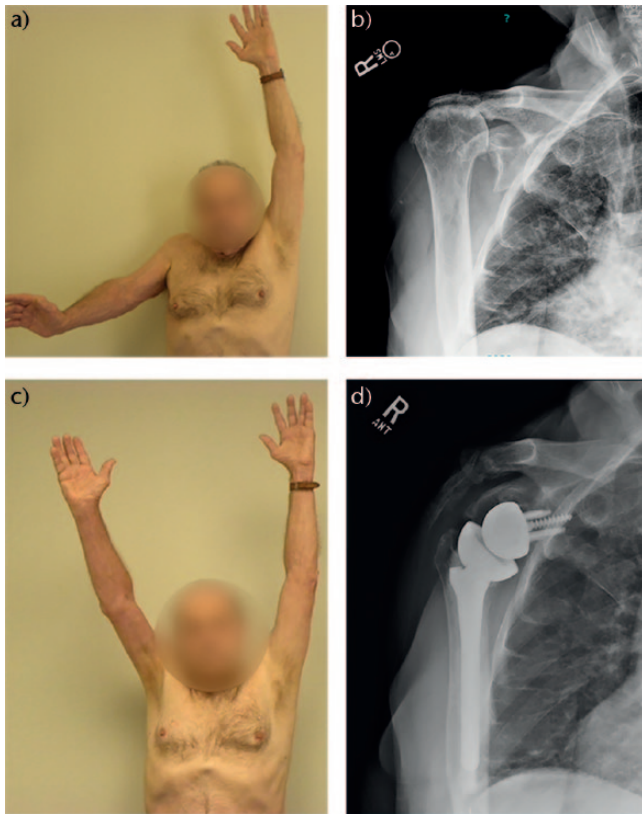


Fig. 2 a) Photograph of a man with superior subluxation of the right shoulder, typical of painless pseudoparalysis; b) radiographic appearance of the shoulder pre-operatively showing classical findings of cuff tear arthropathy; c) post-operative range of abduction after RTSA; d) AP radiograph of implanted RTSA.

repair.^{38,40} RTSA can also be a valuable salvage procedure after failed ORIF of a proximal humerus fracture, with a relatively low revision rate.^{42,43}

Several studies have reported favourable results of RTSA to treat proximal humeral fractures.^{41,44-52} Two studies found no significant differences in the clinical results of patients with acute proximal humerus fractures treated with HA or RTSA.^{46,52} However, other authors reported that RTSA appears to achieve better clinical outcomes than HA.^{44,47,51,53} Ross et al⁵⁰ reported good clinical and radiographic outcomes of RTSA in elderly patients (mean age 79 years [range, 67 to 90 years]) with three- and four-part proximal humerus fractures and an extremely low complication rate (3.4%) with no dislocations, infections or prosthetic revisions. A recent meta-analysis showed that RTSA may produce more favourable clinical outcomes than HA for treating complex proximal humeral fractures.⁵⁴

Several studies have cautioned that RTSA may not be the optimal treatment for patients with acute proximal humerus fractures.^{15,41,55} Smith et al¹⁵ reported that patients treated with RTSA had limited post-operative abduction (approximate range 90° to 100°), and that

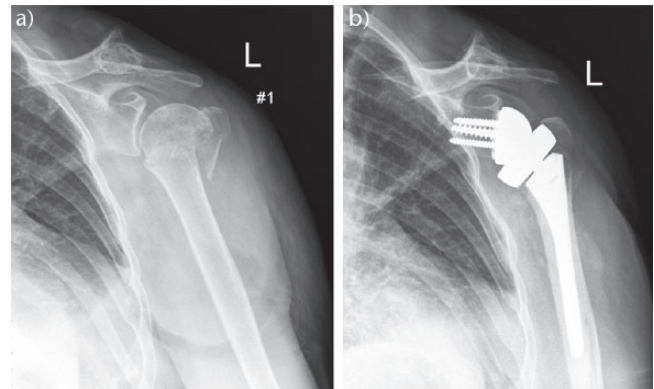


Fig. 3 a) AP radiograph of a proximal humerus fracture; b) post-operative radiograph of the fracture treated with RTSA.

recovery of external rotation and internal rotation varied widely. Cazeneuve and Cristofari⁵⁵ and Bufquin et al⁴¹ showed various post-operative radiographic findings in patients with acute proximal humerus fractures treated with RTSA, and they cautioned that long-term results are required before RTSA can be recommended as a routine procedure for complex fractures of the proximal humerus in the elderly.

Malunited/nonunited proximal humerus fracture

Surgical options to address malunited proximal humerus fractures are determined largely by the existing deformity⁵⁶ and can be categorized broadly as humeral head-preserving techniques (e.g. osteotomies, soft-tissue releases and removal of bony protuberances) or humeral head-sacrificing techniques (e.g. HA, TSA and RTSA) (Fig. 4).⁵⁷

Studies with short-term follow-up have reported high rates of patient satisfaction with RTSA for improving ROM, treating malunited proximal humerus fracture and reducing pain.^{6,58,59} Boileau et al⁶⁰ recommended the use of RTSA to treat type-4 malunions (severe tuberosity malunion) when a greater tuberosity osteotomy was required. In a retrospective review, Martinez et al⁵⁸ reported improvement in Constant-Murley scores and ROM, as well as a high patient satisfaction rate (86%). Before surgery, patients should be informed that active external rotation might not be restored after RTSA, particularly if an osteotomy of the greater tuberosity is performed. Another approach to patients with painful, malunited proximal humeral fractures is to leave the tuberosities in place and insert the RTSA into the existing anatomy. Willis et al⁵⁹ did not perform a tuberosity osteotomy when placing the RTSA and recommended using the largest possible glenosphere to tension the soft tissue and prevent bony impingement.

Raiss et al⁶¹ reported on 42 patients treated with RTSA for post-traumatic sequelae of the proximal part of the humerus with malunion of the tuberosities. Of those patients, 43% rated their result as very good, 45% as

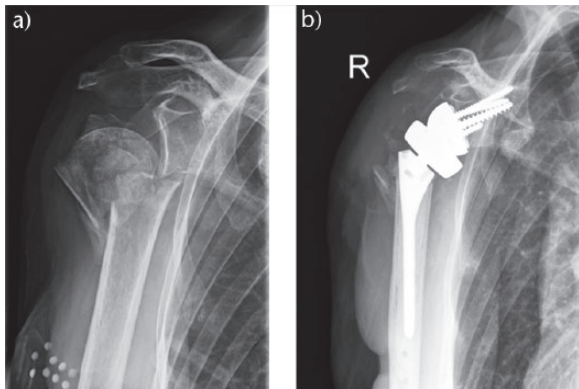


Fig. 4 a) AP radiograph of a malunited proximal humerus fracture; b) post-operative radiograph of the fracture treated with RTSA.

good, 10% as satisfactory and 2% as unsatisfactory. Complications were one intra-operative humeral shaft fracture, one traumatic dislocation, one periprosthetic humeral fracture and one aseptic loosening of the humeral and glenoid components. The authors concluded that RTSA is a good treatment option for type-4 proximal humeral fracture sequelae that cannot be treated with anatomical TSA. In a study at the same institution, the use of RTSA for the treatment of nonunion of the surgical neck of the proximal part of the humerus (type-3 fracture sequelae) produced improvement in functional outcome but a high complication rate.⁶² Dislocation was the most common complication and was associated with resection of the tuberosities of the proximal part of the humerus, which has been postulated to be necessary to provide a compressive force from the deltoid muscle.^{45,63} Another reason for instability may be the removal of the rotator cuff to gain exposure and place the implants. Therefore, the authors recommended that the tuberosities and the attached rotator cuff should be preserved if possible to reduce the risk of dislocation.

Glenohumeral OA with severe glenoid bone loss

The use of RTSA in patients with severe glenoid bone loss and OA has been reported.⁶⁴ There are several classifications of glenoid bone loss that define various defects caused by OA. The most commonly used classification is that of Walch et al:⁶⁵ type A2, central bone loss; type B2, posterior bone loss; and type C, severe retroversion of the glenoid (Fig. 5).

Although glenoid bone grafting has been recommended for type-B2 and type-C glenoid wear, it has been shown that use of RTSA without glenoid bone grafting can be successful for patients with severe glenoid bone loss.^{64,66} Excellent results have been reported in patients with OA, an intact rotator cuff and substantial glenoid

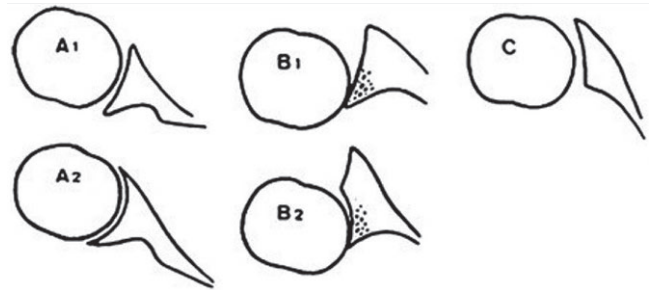


Fig. 5 Diagram of the Walch classification of glenoid erosion of primary glenohumeral arthritis. Reprinted with permission from Walch G, Badet R, Boulahia A, Khoury A. Morphologic study of the glenoid in primary glenohumeral osteoarthritis. *J Arthroplasty* 1999;14:756-60.

bone loss treated with RTSA with⁶⁴ or without⁶⁶ bone grafting (Fig. 6). Long-term follow-up studies are needed before RTSA can be recommended in patients with severe glenoid bone loss.¹¹

Chronic locked glenohumeral joint dislocation

Chronic locked glenohumeral dislocation presents many challenges caused by humeral and glenoid bone loss, concomitant soft-tissue contractures and rotator cuff lesions (Fig. 7).⁶⁷ In these patients the failure rate for TSA has increased, with increasing follow-up because of recurrent instability, glenoid loosening and graft subsidence.⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰ Werner et al⁶⁷ reported on 21 patients treated with glenoid bone grafting with RTSA for neglected anterior dislocation with substantial glenoid bone loss at a mean follow-up of 4.9 years (range, 2 to 10 years). They reported an average 45% glenoid bone loss based on glenoid width measurements on pre-operative CT scans or MR images. Outcomes were rated as excellent by ten patients, good by eight patients and fair by three patients.⁶⁷

Rheumatoid arthritis with or without associated rotator cuff tears

The use of RTSA for patients with rheumatoid arthritis has been studied by several authors.^{14,71-74} Two studies have raised concerns about the high incidence of glenoid base-plate radiographic lucency at follow-up in this patient population.^{14,73} However, excellent to satisfactory results have been reported in up to 95% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis who were treated with RTSA.⁷⁵

Revision arthroplasty

The options for revision surgery after primary shoulder arthroplasty (i.e. HA, resurfacing arthroplasty or TSA) are limited by the challenges of rotator cuff deficiency, glenoid bone loss and soft-tissue contractures.⁷⁶ RTSA has solved many of these challenges and produced high patient satisfaction (Fig. 8).⁷⁷ However, although some of

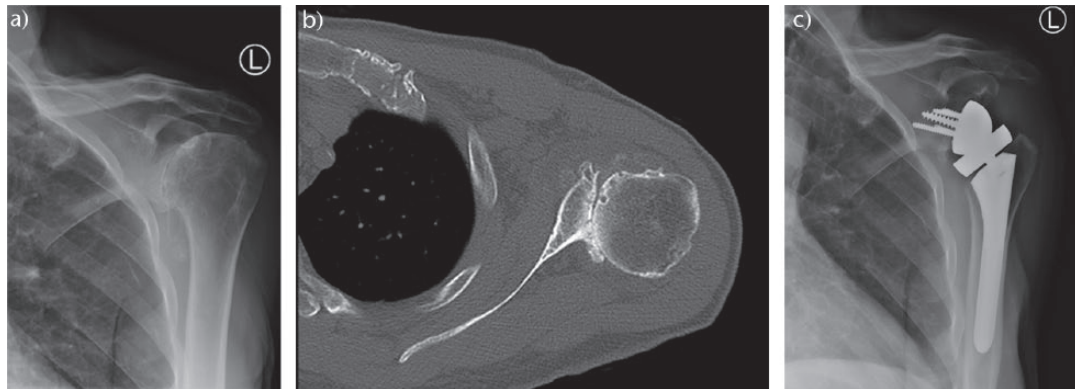


Fig. 6 a) AP radiograph of a shoulder with osteoarthritis, an intact rotator cuff and major glenoid bone loss; b) axial view of a CT scan of the shoulder showing 35° of retroversion; c) AP radiograph of the shoulder treated with RTSA without bone grafting.

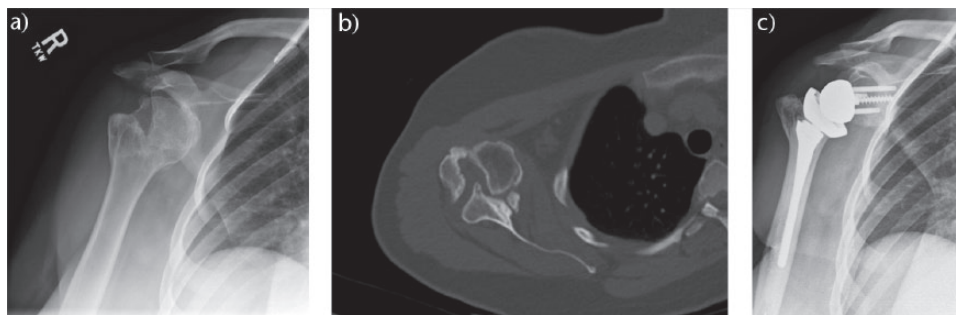


Fig. 7 a) AP radiograph of a locked dislocation; b) axial view of a CT scan of the same patient with glenoid bone loss; c) AP radiograph of the shoulder treated with RTSA.

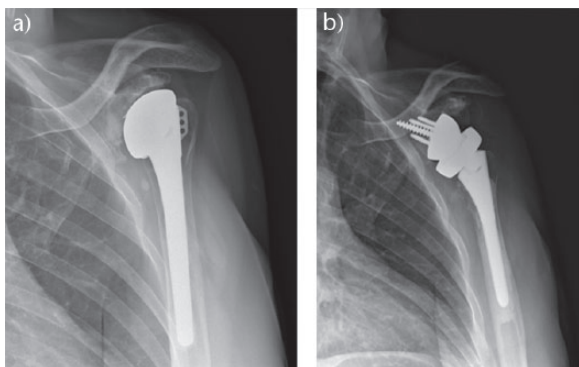


Fig. 8 a) AP radiograph of a failed TSA; b) AP post-operative radiograph after RTSA.

the clinical results have been excellent, the use of RTSA in these patients is associated with higher complication and failure rates compared with RTSA for patients without previous arthroplasty.⁷⁸

The outcomes of RTSA for failed shoulder arthroplasty have been favourable.^{12,13,16,79-81} Levy et al¹² retrospectively reported on outcomes of 29 RTSAs for the treatment of failed HA performed after proximal humeral

fracture. They found significant improvements in the simple shoulder test (SST) and ROM but a complication rate of 28%. Another study of outcomes of RTSA after failed HA in 19 shoulders of 18 patients with glenohumeral arthritis and rotator cuff deficiency reported significant improvement in ROM, with 32% of patients undergoing revision for prosthesis-related complications.¹³ Walker et al⁸¹ evaluated 24 patients who underwent RTSA after failure of TSA. They found significant improvements in SST scores and ROM but an overall complication rate of 23%. Similarly, Melis et al⁷⁹ studied 34 patients who underwent revision RTSA for failed TSA and found that Constant-Murley scores and the ROM in forward flexion improved significantly. They reported a post-operative complication rate of 30%, and 22% of these patients underwent revision surgery. Patel et al⁸⁰ reported on 28 patients who underwent RTSA for treatment of a failed shoulder arthroplasty (i.e. HA, RTSA or TSA). They reported significant improvements in all outcome measures, including ASES score, University of California Los Angeles score, SST score and the visual analogue scale, with an overall complication rate of 10.7%. Black et al¹⁶ reported on 32 patients aged younger than 65 years



Fig. 9 AP radiograph of a dislocated RTSA.

treated with RTSA after failed shoulder arthroplasty. Results were compared with those of a similar cohort of 33 patients who underwent primary RTSA. Post-operatively, when comparing primary to revision RTSA, the visual analogue scale and ASES scores were not significantly different, whereas the subjective shoulder value was significantly better for the primary group. Although there were more complications in the revision group (28% *versus* 18%), the difference was not statistically significant.

Tumours

Several shoulder reconstruction techniques have been reported for patients after wide resection of the proximal humerus and rotator cuff tendons for malignant bone tumours, including allograft, arthrodesis and shoulder arthroplasties.⁸² However, a prerequisite for the ability to implant a RTSA in these cases requires preservation of the axillary nerve and deltoid muscle to be successful.^{6,83}

Bonnevalle et al⁸² reported on eight patients treated for malignant tumours of the proximal humerus with transarticular resection of the tumour and shoulder reconstruction with RTSA. They reported improvement in all outcome scores and concluded that RTSA is an acceptable option to preserve function after resection of a malignant tumour of the proximal humerus.

Complications

Reported complication rates after RTSA are in the range of 19% to 68% and include acromial fracture, haematoma, infection, instability, mechanical baseplate failure,

neurological injury, periprosthetic fracture and scapular notching.^{30,84-89} These rates are influenced by the indications for RTSA and the proportion of revision procedures included in each study.⁹⁰ Other factors influencing complication rates include component design and surgeon experience.^{6,32,88} Wall and Walch⁹¹ reported a 13% complication rate for primary RTSA and a 37% complication rate for revision RTSA. Wierks et al⁸⁹ reported 33 complications in 15 patients; the most frequent complications were neuropathy, intra-operative fracture and dislocation, with the primary cause for revision surgery being dislocation. Other authors have reported complication rates as high as 68% for primary RTSA.³² Walch et al⁸⁸ reported the incidence of complications to be 19% for primary RTSAs and 24% for revision RTSAs. For revision RTSA, the reported complication and revision rates in a meta-analysis by Zumstein et al⁹² were 24% and 10%, respectively. Saltzman et al⁹³ reported overall complication rates of 25% after primary RTSA and 69% after revision RTSA.

Instability

Dislocation after RTSA is a major concern (Fig. 9). The incidence of post-operative instability has been reported to be in the range of 2% to 31%.^{92,94,95} Patient risk factors for dislocation include body mass index > 30, male sex, previous surgery and subscapularis deficiency.^{96,97} Surgical factors contributing to instability include inadequate soft-tissue and deltoid tensioning,^{6,84,94,98} malpositioned implants,⁹⁹ mechanical impingement, insufficiency of the subscapularis⁸⁷ and use of the deltopectoral approach compared with the anterosuperior approach.^{6,32,84,92,100} The instability rate has also been associated with prosthesis design; prostheses with a head-neck angle of -155° have been shown to have a higher instability rate than those with a more horizontal head-neck angle of 135° (Fig. 10).¹⁰¹

Teusink et al⁹⁷ reported that instability of RTSA often occurs within six months after surgery, with half of cases occurring within three months. When dislocation occurred within three months, a surgical error was considered the most likely cause and closed reduction was typically unsuccessful. Conversely, late dislocation (> 1 year after surgery) can usually be treated successfully with closed reduction.¹⁰⁰

Infection

Reported rates of infection after RTSA are in the range of 1% to 15%, which is higher than the infection rate after anatomical TSA.^{90,100} In one of the few comparison studies, Barco et al⁹⁰ found the infection rate after primary RTSA to be significantly higher than that after primary TSA. In a systematic review including primary and revision RTSA, Zumstein et al⁹² reported a mean infection rate of

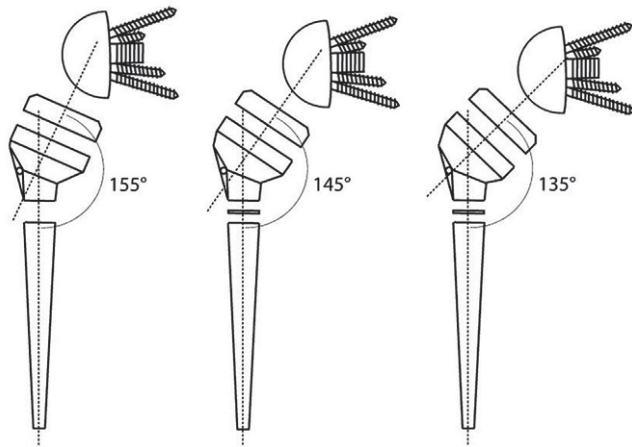


Fig. 10 Diagram showing the different head-neck angles of Grammont-type prostheses vs a more horizontal head-neck angle seen in more recent designs. Reprinted with permission from Oh JH, Shin SJ, McGarry MH, Scott JH, Heckmann N, Lee TQ. Biomechanical effects of humeral neck-shaft angle and subscapularis integrity in reverse total shoulder arthroplasty. *J Shoulder Elbow Surg* 2014;23:1091-8.

3.8%, with a higher rate of infection after revision surgery than after primary surgery. In a study of 3906 patients, Richards et al¹⁰² reported a sixfold greater risk of infection after RTSA compared with an anatomical TSA. A history of shoulder trauma or failed HA has also been shown in some studies to be a risk factor for infection.^{102,103}

Scapular notching

Scapular notching is a complication unique to RTSA, with a reported incidence of 50% to 96% (Fig. 11).^{14,30} Scapular notching typically occurs within six months after surgery and appears to stabilize in most cases.^{104,105} However, some studies report an apparent increase in incidence and severity of notching with increasing follow-up.¹⁰⁰ The rate of notching in RTSAs with a medialized centre of rotation has been reported to be 47%; however, systematic review has reported rates of up to 97%.⁹⁰ The reported rate of notching when using lateralized RTSAs (4.6%) is significantly lower compared with medialized designs.⁹⁰ The major concern with notching is that it may lead to baseplate failure, but that concern remains controversial (Fig. 12).

Although some authors have suggested an increased risk of baseplate loosening with scapular notching,^{30,106-108} others have not found such a relationship.^{32,92,109-111} The clinical implications of notching are controversial; some authors have reported no associations with clinical outcomes,^{32,110,111} whereas others have reported that high grades of notching may be associated with worse clinical outcomes.^{32,104,110,111} The use of an anterosuperior approach, a high position of the baseplate on the glenoid and superior tilting have all been associated with higher rates of

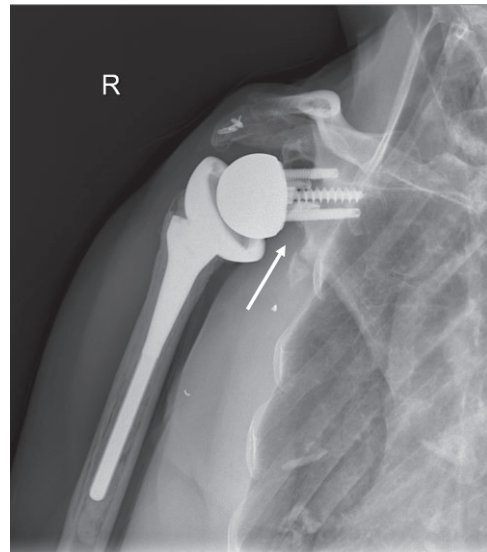


Fig. 11 AP radiograph of notching of the inferior glenoid (arrow) after RTSA.

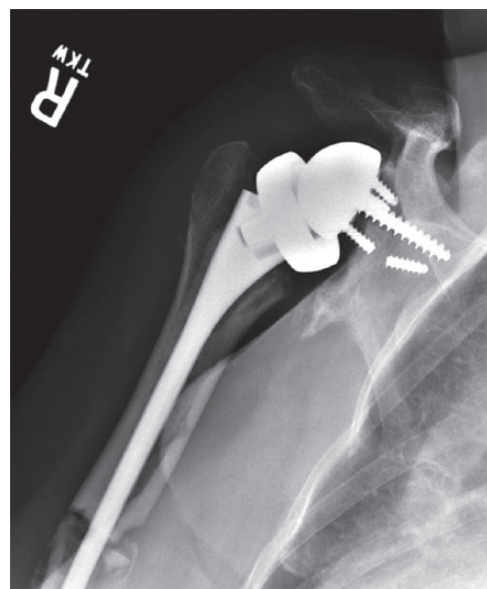


Fig. 12 AP radiograph of a baseplate failure after RTSA.

notching caused by mechanical impingement with the arm in adduction.¹¹⁰ Eccentric glenospheres with an inferior offset and glenoid components with a more lateral offset (bony or metal) can reduce the risk of notching.^{112,113} Mizuno et al¹¹⁴ analysed the influence of an eccentric glenosphere in 47 consecutive cases compared with an historical group treated by the same surgeon. The rates of notching were not different but the severity of notching was less when using an eccentric glenosphere. Other authors have reported a negligible rate of notching when using an inferior offset component.¹¹⁵

Heterotopic ossification

Heterotopic ossification after RTSA is a relatively common finding of unknown clinical importance.¹¹⁶ In a 164-patient cohort of primary and revision RTSAs, Ko et al¹¹⁶ found an overall rate of heterotopic ossification of the long head of the triceps tendon of 62%. They found that men had a higher rate of heterotopic ossification than women, and that heterotopic ossification was associated with worse post-operative ROM.¹¹⁶ The exact cause of heterotopic ossification in the long head of the triceps tendon after RTSA is unknown. It has been postulated to be caused by releases, traction on the triceps and more extensive exposure of the glenoid than is typically done in anatomical TSA.¹¹⁶

Neurological injury

Neurological injury is a known complication of shoulder arthroplasty of all types, with reported incidence in the range of 1% to 4%.^{117,118} Nerves from the brachial plexus can undergo stretch injuries at the extremes of motion that occur during intra-operative positioning of the arm.^{118,119} Brachial plexus palsies have been shown to be more common in RTSA than in TSA, possibly because of the lengthening effect on the arm during RTSA and the need for greater glenoid exposure.¹²⁰

Scapular fractures

Scapular fractures are a well-recognized complication of RTSA, and they have been reported in 0.8% to 7.2% of cases.¹²¹ Postulated causes include excessive tensioning of the deltoid,⁹⁰ placement of a superior screw in the baseplate¹²² and stress of the implants on osteoporotic bone.¹²³ Insufficiency fractures of the acromion or displacement of the os acromiale after RTSA can be painful and can limit ROM.^{90,100,124} Conversely, scapular spine fractures lead to painful dysfunction and may require ORIF.¹⁰⁰ Post-operative scapular fractures have been associated with inferior clinical results and increased risk of revision.¹²¹ Bilateral scapular fractures¹²⁵ and clavicle stress fractures¹²⁶ after RTSA have also been reported.

Conclusions

RTSA has revolutionized the treatment of shoulder disorders that previously had no easy or acceptable solution. Patient satisfaction with RTSA can be high, and most patients experience pain relief and improved function. Although the short-term implant survival rate appears to be acceptable, the long-term results are unknown. RTSA is associated with a higher rate and more diverse spectrum of complications than is desirable. Improvements in prosthesis design, surgeon experience and clinical results will

need to occur to optimize this treatment for many shoulder conditions.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

¹Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Villa del Sole Clinic, Italy.

²Division of Shoulder Surgery, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University, USA.

³Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Hacettepe University, Turkey.

Correspondence should be sent to: G. Huri, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Orthopaedics and Traumatology Department, Hacettepe University, Ankara 06100, Turkey.

Email: gazihuri@yahoo.com

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