

Minimally invasive animal model for bone implant in swine



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ABSTRACT

Objective: The present study aimed to develop a minimally invasive animal model that could accommodate evaluation experiments for cortico-spongy implants in the areas of orthopedics, dentistry, and neurology. **Methodology:** On the anteromedial surface of the proximal third of the tibia of pigs, we have a cortico-spongy area that is basically subcutaneous. This region proved to be ideal for this purpose. **Results and discussions:** The pig is already a well-known animal for testing biomaterials in bones because its bone regeneration rate (1.2 and 1.5 mm/d) is comparable to that of humans (1.0 and 1.5 mm/d) **Conclusion:** The Animal Model was formatted, which proved to be simple and reproducible.

Keywords: Porcine Animal Model, Cortical Spongy Bone, Proximal Tibia.

1 INTRODUCTION

With the evolution of science and technology, especially in the field of medicine, the use of Animal Models for the evolution of techniques and treatments have become of paramount importance. Galen (129-210 A.D.), forerunner of experimental medical research with the use of animals inspired adherents to this plan of study, but it was Claude Bernard in 1865 who launched the principles of its use in the work "Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine" establishing the rules and principles for such. Since then, the significance of the use of animal models has gained greater attention and relevance¹.

In orthopedics, an anatomy with greater proximity to the human is necessary, in addition to the similar pathophysiological and histological composition to be able to present relevant results².

Several animal test models, such as rats/mice^{3,4,5}, rabbits^{3,6,7}, dogs^{3,8,9}, sheep^{3,10,11}, goats^{3,12,13} and pigs^{3,14,15} were developed to simulate environment and physical conditions by testing the biocompatibility of substitute biomaterials for human bones "*in vivo*". To simulate various orthopedic situations, many sites of defects which were explored, such as calvary^{3,16,17}, femur/tibia^{3,18,19} and ulna^{3,20,21,22}.



Factors should be considered when selecting a specific animal species as a test model. First, the animal model chosen must clearly demonstrate significant physiological and pathophysiological analogies compared to humans. Secondly, it should evaluate whether it is possible to operate and observe a multiplicity of study objects after surgery over a period of time²³. Other selection criteria include acquisition and care costs, availability of the animal, acceptability by society, tolerance to captivity and ease of housing²⁴. According to the international standard, we should also consider the size of the implant test specimens, number of implants per animal, intended duration of the test and possible differences between species when correlated with biological responses²⁵.

In the present study, pigs were preferred to be used as anatomical models. This choice was initially due to the greater morphological/anatomical similarity with man, in addition to the ease of releasing them for in vivo study. Followed by the choice of pigs as an animal model, the need for anatomical regions whose histology presented cortico-spongy regions was specified. Such histology is present in metaphyses of long bones, such as the femur and tibia. We limited the study to the tibia because it has a triangular shape and in the anteromedial region of its proximal third is basically subcutaneous, thus facilitating its approach. There is already an animal model that contemplates these requirements²⁶, but with a bloodier approach, by incision that accessing skin, subcutaneous, periosteum and bone leaves the surgical time and recovery more prolonged.

It will be presented in this work a new procedure that will facilitate the evaluation of biocompatibility and recovery after cortico-spongy implants in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine in the specialties of Orthopedics, Traumatology, Dentistry and Neurology in a minimally invasive way.

2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study carried out at the Veterinary Surgical Center of the Mafra Campus of UNC – Fundação Universidade do Contestado (Figures 1 A and 1 B)

Fig. 1 A – UNC Veterinary Surgical Center (Campus Mafra - SC)

Fig. 1 B – Procedure Room with specific lighting, instrumentation and anesthesia equipment.





Preparation and arrangement of materials and surgical specimen (Figure 2)

Fig. 2 – Prepared materials and part



After localization of the knee joint with Kirschner 2.0 thread, the instrument is positioned on the anteromedial surface of the proximal tibia and the skin, subcutaneous, periosteal, first cortical and spongy skin is perforated until it is fixed in the second cortical tibia with Kirschner wire 1,5. (Figures 3 A, B and C)

Fig. 3 A – instrumental created for passage of guide wires and introduction of interference screws to allow minimally invasive technique.

Fig. 3 B – After passage of the Kirschner Wire 2.0 in the knee joint, the guide wires are passed through the instrument.

Fig. 3 C – Kirschner 1.5 parallel guide wires positioned beyond the first and fixing it in the second cortical.



With scalpel handle 4 with blade 23 incised laterally to the wire by 1 cm. (Figures 4 A and 4 B)

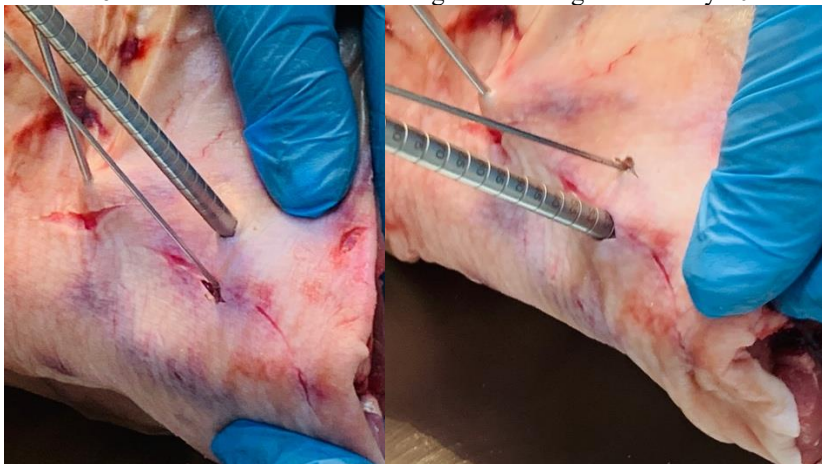


Fig. 4 A – incision of 1 cm laterally to the first guide wire.
Fig. 4 B – incision of 1 cm laterally to the second guide wire.



We then drilled with a 6 mm cannulated drill bit at a depth of 20 mm in the proximal tibia.
(Figures 5 A and 5 B)

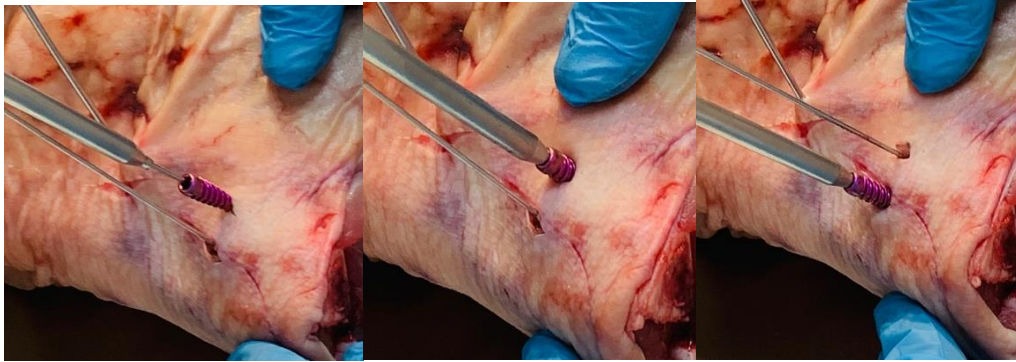
Fig. 5 A – Perforation with 6 mm cannulated drill following the first guide wire by 20 mm in the proximal tibia.
Fig. 5 B – Perforation with 6 mm cannulated drill following the second guide wire by 20 mm in the proximal tibia.



Following the guide wire, a bone screw of 7 mm x 20 mm is inserted, turning until it is aligned with the cortical surface of the tibia. (Figures 6 A and 6 B)



Fig. 6 A/B – Screw 70X20 mm implant following the first guide wire until it aligns with the cortical surface of the Tibia.
Fig. 6 C – Screw 70X20 mm implant following the second guide wire until it aligns with the cortical surface of the Tibia.



After fixation of the screws, the intra-articular and bone wires are performed and skin is sutured with single stitches of mononylon 2.0. (Figures 7 A and 7 B)

Fig. 7 A – Joint and bone wires present and being removed.

Fig. 7 B – Skin suture.

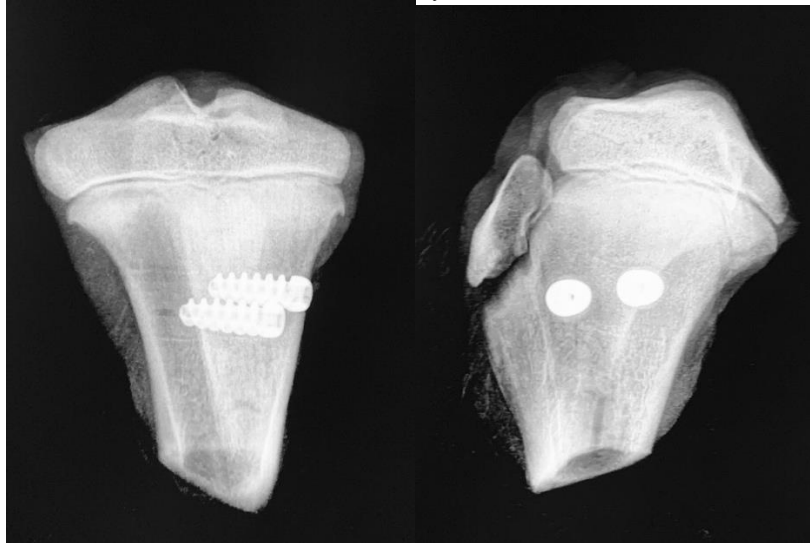
Fig. 7 C – Positioning of the screws in the proximal tibia.



A post-procedure radiographic study was performed to visualize the positioning of the implants. (Figures 8 A in Antero Posterior and 8 B in Profile)



Fig. 8 A – Radiographic study in AP (Antero Posterior) of the swine tibia
Fig. 8 B – Radiographic study in Porcine Tibia Profile



3 RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Pigs are considered close representative models with regard to bone anatomy, morphology, healing capacity, remodeling, mineral density and concentration^{27,28}. Similarities were found in the diameter of the cross-section of the femur and in the area between humans and pigs²⁹. Pigs have a lamellar bone structure similar to that of humans³⁰. However, pigs have a denser trabecular network, considered intricate. They are difficult to handle, noisy and aggressive; therefore, pigs are often neglected in favor of more receptive species, such as sheep and goats^{31,32}. In addition, the length of the tibias and femurs in pigs is relatively small, which cannot meet the special needs of human implants. The pig was the animal chosen for critical size defect models to test bone substitute biomaterials because its bone regeneration rate (1.2 and 1.5 mm/d) is comparable to that of humans (1.0 and 1.5 mm/d)²².

Commercial pigs are generally considered undesirable for orthopedic research because of their high growth rates and body weight. It should be noted that the development of mini-pigs and micropigs has overcome this problem to some extent. However, in our region, it is easy to obtain and manage these animals, when compared to the others, making the application of this Animal Model much easier.

4 CONCLUSION

It was possible to format the Animal Model in pigs for spongy cortico implants of simple, reproducible, and minimally invasive execution.



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