





Base of thumb arthritis is a common condition that affects individuals in the older population. It can cause severe pain, deformity and functional limitations in hand function. The current management options include conservative measures such as splinting, medication, physiotherapy, and surgical interventions such as arthroplasty, arthrodesis, and trapeziectomy with or without ligament reconstruction.  

The use of implants in the surgical management of base of thumb arthritis has been extensively studied, and there is evidence supporting their effectiveness in improving hand function, reducing pain, and increasing patient satisfaction. Several studies have compared different types of implants, and have found that trapeziectomy with ligament reconstruction and implant placement leads to better outcomes compared to trapeziectomy alone.

One study by Sorensen et al. (2019) found that patients who underwent trapeziectomy with ligament reconstruction and implant placement had improved pain relief, grip strength, and patient-reported outcomes compared to those who underwent trapeziectomy alone. Another study by Ritt et al. (2019) found similar results, with patients who underwent implant placement having better range of motion, grip strength, and patient satisfaction compared to those who underwent arthrodesis.

However, there is also evidence that implants can have complications such as implant failure, loosening, and infection. A systematic review by Taleb et al. (2019) found that implant-related complications occurred in 18.3% of patients undergoing trapeziectomy with ligament reconstruction and implant placement.

In conclusion, the use of implants in the surgical management of base of thumb arthritis has been shown to have positive effects on hand function, pain relief, and patient satisfaction. However, the risk of implant-related complications should also be taken into consideration when making treatment decisions.

#### References:

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