



Letter to the Editor

Conservative treatment of distal radial fractures: can we predict and reduce redisplacements?

Dear Editor,

I have read the article "Selective Kirschner wiring for displaced distal radial fractures in children" by Luscombe et al.^[1] with interest. This article views the results of authors' clinical experience about displaced distal radial fractures. However, there are some missing points in the paper.

In this study some factors were sought as a cause of redisplacement, but casting technique was completely ignored. Our two studies showed that casting technique, particularly moulding and adequate three-point fixation, plays the major role to have a stable distal radial fracture in a cast.^[2,3] I strongly recommend sound understanding and routine usage of our novel method "three-point index" in predicting an impending redisplacement. The method is based on measuring six critical gaps (three in antero-posterior and three in lateral radiographs) between skin and cast. The reduction quality is also considered in the index. This index gives quite reliable results unlike their previous counterparts (such as cast index, padding index, and gap index), as it does not repeat the error, which is measuring gaps at only fracture site. The use of three-point index in the follow-up visits gives the opportunity of noticing the subsiding swelling and loosening of the cast before redisplacement occurs. In clinical practice, by routine use of this index, it is possible to reduce the redisplacement rates for fractures in which an adequate reduction achieved.

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References

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Author's reply

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for having allowed us to answer this letter. We are pleased that our article has engendered the thoughts expressed by the author of the letter.

We are in full agreement; appropriate plastering is a pre-requisite to successful conservative management of fractures, in both the upper and the lower limb. Unfortunately, at the time of inception of our study, the investigations by Alemdaroğlu et al. had not been published. We prompt the readers to study them thoroughly; the art of perfect plastering is still alive.

Best regards,

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