

# Intra-Articular Migration Of Broken Patella Cerclage Wire And Its Arthroscopic Retrieval: A Case Report

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## INTRODUCTION:

Cerclage wires are commonly used in patella fracture fixation. Various complications can arise from their failures such as intra-articular migration which are rarely reported.

## REPORT:

A 36 years old male was referred for right knee pain for the past one month. Patient sustained right patella fracture due to motor-vehicle accident 15 years ago, which was operated. Currently patient denied recent trauma, locking or instability symptoms. Clinical examination revealed no significant findings with full range of motion. There were no physical signs of infection with well healed midline scar. Further radiographic examination of the right knee showed the 3 cancellous screws in situ, with a broken cerclage wire fragment migrated intra-articularly (Fig. 1). The patient was electively admitted for removal of implant. The broken wire fragment was identified under the anterior horn of lateral meniscus and retrieved in one piece arthroscopically (Fig. 2). Other implants removed with open method.



Figure 1: Plain Radiography of AP and lateral view Right Knee.



Figure 2: Broken cerclage wire fragment

## DISCUSSIONS:

Although broken cerclage wires are fairly common, insignificant cases of wire fragment migration were reported especially intra-articularly<sup>1</sup>. The utilization of arthroscopy method for the removal of broken fragment serves an advantage of being minimally invasive<sup>2</sup>. It also provides the opportunity to explore the knee joint for related injuries.

## CONCLUSION:

Patients undergoing cerclage wire of patella must be counseled on the risks and complications of implant failure and possible migration. Post-operative patients must have long term follow-up and any signs of hardware failure warrant removal of implant after fracture union.

## REFERENCES:

1. Satish Kumar Sharma, et al. Intra-articular Migration of Broken Patellar Tension Band Wire: A Rare Case. *J Orthop Case Rep.* 2016 Nov-Dec; 6(5): 41-43.
2. Tamaki Y, et al. Arthroscopic removal of a wire fragment from the posterior septum of the knee following tension band wiring of a patella fracture. *Case Rep Orthop.* 2015;2015:1-5.