

A RARE CASE OF GALEAZZI FRACTURE WITH IPSILATERAL ELBOW DISLOCATION

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Introduction: Fracture of radial shaft associated with distal radioulnar dislocation is described as Galeazzi fracture. The association of Galeazzi fracture with ipsilateral elbow dislocation is a rare pattern of injury. The main interests in this report are the probable pathomechanics and management of this injury.

Discussion: A 41-year-old lady who had alleged road traffic accident, presented with left forearm and elbow injury. Clinical examination showed left forearm and elbow deformity, but neurovascular was intact. Radiographs demonstrated left Galeazzi fracture associated with ipsilateral elbow dislocation. Close reduction of the elbow dislocation was done immediately at the casualty under sedation followed by immobilisation with above elbow backslab. Subsequently, the patient underwent open reduction and internal fixation of the radius and K-wire fixation of the distal radioulnar joint (DRUJ) 3 days after injury when the swelling subsided. Post fixation of radius and DRUJ, the elbow stability was assessed and stable. In this case, the exact injury mechanism was not well-ascertained based on the history. The patient fell off her motorbike, landed onto her left hand in an outstretched position. The probable mechanism of this injury may be due to vigorous axial loading of her hyperpronated forearm along with her body weight contributing to a driving force, hence leading to Galeazzi fracture and posterior elbow dislocation. The intact ulna may act as the medium of axial force transmission as a result of collapsed radial column, consequently the force levers the ulna off the articulation of trochlear resulted in ulnohumeral joint dislocation.

Conclusion: Simultaneously occurring Galeazzi fracture and ipsilateral elbow dislocation is a variant injury. We believe that this injury may occur from a deforming force magnitude together with unique position of the upper extremity at the time of injury. Despite the concurrent injuries, treatment approach could be applied individually, with a satisfactory outcome.