

CASE REPORT - ARE YOU HOOKED? SIMPLE TECHNIQUE EXTRACTING BROKEN DISTAL INTRAMEDULLARY NAIL

Yap Wei Keing¹, Mohd Hudzairy Ahmad¹

¹Hospital Sultanah Nora Ismail

Introduction: Removal of implant in orthopaedic surgery is often done when the fracture is united, or in revision fracture surgery for non-union, mal-union, infection or peri-implant failure . If the implant is broken, it can possess a great challenge to the surgeon. Here we presenting a simple technique using common readily available instruments to extract a broken distal intramedullary nail.

Discussion: Patient is a young working adult who had alleged motor vehicle accident and sustained open fracture of left femur and left tibia done intramedullary nail.. During follow up, it was noted that the femur still not united and complicated with broken intramedullary nail at the level of distal locking screw. We then proceed for extraction of the broken intramedullary nail. Patient was placed on traction table, proximal end and locking screws were removed using standard extraction instruments. We then use a guide wire to form a 'fish hook' at the tip of guide wire. It was then introduced through entry point and passed to the tip of the nail and hooked out the distal nail. By using the guide wire which is easily found in operation theatre, we are able to extract the broken nail through this method.

Conclusion: Removal of broken implant has always been the greatest challenge among orthopaedic surgeon. Hence it is important for the surgeon to be familiar with a wide range of different techniques. The one that we used here is one of the fastest and cost saving method.