

COMMON PERONEAL NERVE INJURY SECONDARY TO AVULSION FRACTURE HEAD OF FIBULA: A TROUBLESOME FOOT FROP

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Introduction: Common peroneal nerve injury are the most common cause of foot drop in lower extremity. However , the nerve injury associated with fibula head fracture are rare. It is mainly caused by compression or traction of the nerve.

Discussion: A 36 year-old male had motor vehicle accident, sustained closed avulsion fracture head of left fibula with complete left foot drop and reduce sensation over superficial and deep peroneal nerve distribution. Clinically, the left knee joint is swollen with multiple bruises along the lateral border suspicious of ligament injury. X- ray of left knee joint revealed the fragment was avulsed around 4cm from the head of fibula and at the level of joint line (figure 1). Early surgical exploration was done shows the common peroneal nerve is intact but contused (figure 2) . Open reduction and internal fixation of the fibula head with cancellous screw and cerclage wire shows good stability after fixation. Post operatively, patient are well, however the foot drop and sensation still no improvement.

Conclusion: The common peroneal nerve are susceptible to injury due to its attachment at the neck of fibula. Traction force following varus stress to the knee is one of the main causes. Early detection of the injury and early exploration of the nerve with stable fixation of fibula head will lead to good outcome.