

PERILS OF REMOVAL OF OLD IMPLANT RADIUS: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Removal of implants are commonly performed orthopedic surgical procedures worldwide. One of the most common indication for hardware removal is due to implant related infection. Implants removal might be challenging in certain scenario especially for old implants. We present a case on the difficulty faced on the removal of an old recon plate of radius following chronic osteomyelitis.

Discussion: One of the most challenging consequences of trauma surgery is implants related infection. Late onset of implants related infection may occur as early as 10 weeks to an indefinite time after surgery. In this case, patient presented as chronic osteomyelitis with healed fracture after 30 years of surgery. Removal of implant for this case was challenging as the current generation of screwdrivers are either AO hexagonal or stardrive. Multiple screw removal systems are available for removal of screws; however, this case required the use of Philips head screw-driver for removal which is not a standard item in removal sets currently.

Conclusion: Surgeons have to think out of the box when facing situations where the current generation of tools could not accommodate to remove older generation implants.