

SLEEVE PATELLA FRACTURE OF INFERIOR POLE IN A CHILD: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Sleeve fracture of patella is uncommon in children, accounts for less than 1% of paediatric fractures. It is frequently misdiagnosed and neglected. We reported a case of misdiagnosed sleeve fracture patella which was initially diagnosed as patella tendon rupture.

Discussion: A 7 year-old girl presented with pain and swelling of left knee with reduced range of motion after she misstep and fall. She was discharged with Robert Jones bandage and referred to us for further management in view of persistent pain and extension lag. Radiograph showed patella alta with small piece of inferior pole patella. Intraoperatively, there was avulsion of ossification centre of patella from its chondral sleeve at lower pole thus the patella was fixed with suture repair 4 strand anchored onto ligamentum patella. Post operatively, knee was protected with cylinder cast for 3 weeks and attained full range of motion 5 months post operative.

Conclusion: Sleeve fracture patella is uncommon in children, thus, high index of suspicion should be raised if such case is encountered so that proper management can be done and further complications can be avoided such as patella-femoral pain, extension laxity and patella dislocation. Sleeve patella fracture can be fixed with tension band wiring or anchor suture.