

Less is more

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INTRODUCTION

Acetabular fracture fixation is an exigent procedure, the complexity of which is further compounded by the poor quality of bone in geriatric population. The benchmark in such fixation is restoration of joint congruency and early mobilization, the latter of which preponderates among the elderly as the complications of recumbency are far more morbid than a less than perfect reduction. Given the generally accepted approach to acetabular fracture is open reduction internal fixation (ORIF), here we submit a case of percutaneous screw fixation in transverse acetabular fragility fracture with good outcome.

REPORT

A 62-year-old man sustained a Judet Letournel transverse type right acetabular fracture with medialization of femoral head and sciatic nerve injury following a road traffic accident. Skeletal vector traction was applied while patient was waiting for CT pelvis and the sciatic nerve injury showed improvement after traction was initiated. Subsequently a percutaneous screw fixation was done with two 6.5mm cannulated screws.



Figure 1: Post trauma



Figure 2: On vector traction

He made an uneventful recovery and was able to mobilize with wheelchair the next day and was discharged well with a small wound and minimal pain three days later. Upon clinic review six weeks postoperatively, he was able to ambulate with walking frame and had no complications.



Figure 3: Post percutaneous screw fixation

CONCLUSION

In comparison to ORIF, percutaneous screw fixation is a far less extensive approach which by virtue of its smaller incision and minimal blood loss, enables a faster rehabilitation process which averts complications of being bedbound long term, and such benefits undoubtedly accrue to the elderly with fragility fractures.

REFERENCE

1. Christopher A. Becker et al. Minimally invasive screw fixation is as stable as anterior plating in acetabular T-Type fractures – A biomechanical study. *Orthopaedics and Traumatology: Surgery & Research*, Volume 104, Issue 7, Nov 2018, Pages 1055-1061.