

Challenges in Fracture Fixation Surgery for Paediatric Supracondylar Humerus Fracture with Post Covid 19 Infection- a case report

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INTRODUCTION:

As Covid 19 infection cases rise worldwide, few studies analyzed the effect of Covid 19 pandemic in management of paediatric surgical emergency procedures in which use of personal protective device during the procedures, anesthesia and surgical technique procedure to reduce the aerosols, will minimize risk of infection transmission to health care workers. However, for the paediatric patients with fractures and concomitant Covid 19 infection, surgeries may be delayed due to the increased risks of perioperative morbidity and mortality. In this case report, we highlight the challenges in managing the patient and the fracture fixation surgery of a paediatric population with concurrent Covid 19 infection.

REPORT:

A case of 2 years 7 months old boy, presented with history of fall at his house during Home Surveillance Order (HSO) period. Real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing result was positive. He was asymptomatic of Covid 19 infection. During the fall, he sustained closed fracture supracondylar right humerus (Gartland 3). He was admitted to isolation ward for ten days and was operated seventeen days after trauma. Intraoperatively, no pulmonary complications during anesthesia, however challenge was encountered during the fracture fixation surgery as the fracture was comminuted and presence of bone loss at posteromedial aspect of distal fragment. Fracture was reduced by open reduction and fixed with two lateral and one medial k-wires.



Figure 1: Elbow x-ray of AP and lateral view

CONCLUSION:

In the fracture fixation surgery of a paediatric population with concurrent Covid 19 infection, one of the challenges is the decision to perform surgery and must balance the risk against the risks of delaying or avoiding the planned procedure. Intraoperative difficulty during surgery is also part of the challenges that should be anticipated especially with delayed paediatric fracture fixation surgery.

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