

# SUCCESSFUL UNION AND EXCELLENT OUTCOME WITH SUPRACUTANEOUS PLATING OF THE ULNA : A CASE REPORT

<sup>1</sup>MNoor, Shukri, <sup>2</sup>Zulkifli, M Amir, <sup>3</sup>Azizan, Asrul F, <sup>4</sup>S Addi

<sup>1</sup>Department Of Orthopaedic And Traumatology, Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Kangar, Perlis

## INTRODUCTION:

Open fracture with soft tissue injury posed a higher risk of infection when involved implant insertion. We are reporting a case of open fracture of ulna which was successfully managed by using supracutaneous plate as external fixator.

## REPORT:

25 year old gentleman, alleged motorvehicle accident and sustained open fracture of left olecranon. He was then proceeded with wound debridement and supracutaneous plating of the olecranon in view of exposed olecranon with contused soft tissue. Post operatively patient was started on physiotherapy and rehabilitation. Range of motion was improved throughout follow up. Plate was removed once union was achieved after 6 weeks postoperatively. The final follow up range of motion was 0 to 130 degree.



**Figure 1: Post operative radiograph**



**Figure 2: Post union and removal of implant**

## DISCUSSIONS:

Supracutaneous plating as external fixator has emerge as one of the options in managing open fracture of tibia. But to date, there is a dearth of case report reporting of the usage of supracutaneous plate for other long bone. The location of the ulna which is only underneath the skin and subcutaneous tissue making it a good candidate for supracutaneous plate. In a patient with very bad soft tissue injury, implant selection is crucial in preventing infection. By using locking plate as an external fixator, the injured soft tissue and fracture can be allowed to heal without further causing soft tissue injury especially over the fracture site.

## CONCLUSION:

Supracutaneous plating of the olecranon can be one of the options of treatment in open fracture of ulna with bad soft tissue injury which does not favour internal fixation. The plate is easily concealed under clothing making it more acceptable and less troublesome to the patient.

## REFERENCES:

1. Gupta, SK Venkatesh, and Shyam Prasad Parimala. "Supracutaneous Locking Compression Plate for Grade I & II Compound Fracture Distal Tibia—A Case Series." *Open Journal of Orthopedics* 3.02 (2013): 106.