

Closed Reduction and External Fixation of Displaced Fractures of the Proximal Humerus

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Purpose: This is a retrospective study to analyze the functional results of closed reduction and external fixation of unstable fractures of the proximal humerus.

Materials and Methods: Ten unstable proximal humerus fractures were managed with closed reduction and external fixation in which other operative methods are not proper due to comminution, osteoporosis or poor general condition of patients. 4 cases of 2-part and 6 cases of 3-part fracture were included. Radiologically union of fracture, malunion and the evidence of avascular necrosis of humeral head were assessed and the functional results were analyzed with Neer scoring system.

Results: Radiologically all fractures were healed but in 2 cases malunion was resulted because of reduction loss in proximal fragment. Pin site infection was developed in 7 cases and oral antibiotics were needed. The functional results were excellent in 4, satisfactory in 3 and unsatisfactory in 3 cases. 2 cases with malunion and one case with lack of postoperative cooperation resulted in functionally unsatisfactory.

Conclusion: External fixation is an alternative method in the treatment of unstable proximal humerus fractures in which open reduction or percutaneous pinning are not proper due to comminution, osteoporosis or poor general condition of patient.

Key Words: Proximal humerus fracture, External fixation

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half ring 1 half-pin

, bicipital groove

2 half-pin 4

1 half-pin

4.0 mm half-pin

5.0 mm half-pin

2 half ring 4.0 mm half-pin 1

half-pin

2001 3 2002 3

12

1 가 가 10

, 2

가 1 , 가 9 , 54

79 68.9 , 65 8

가 , 1가 가 가,

12 18 14.6

8 , 가 2

1 cm 45°

, Neer 4 , 6

, 2

35 74 46

3 , 가

7

Steinmann

2~4 Steinmann

3

half ring 2 3 half-pin

Table 1. Functional evaluation of shoulder by Neer criteria

Pain	35 units
Function	30 units
Range of motion	25 units
Anatomy	10 units
Total	100 units

*Excellent; above 89 units, Satisfactory; 80~89 units
Unsatisfactory; 70~79 units, Failure; below 70 units

Table 2. Functional results according to fracture type

Result	Fracture type		
	two - part	three - part	Total
Excellent	1	3	4 (40%)
Satisfactory	1	2	3 (30%)
Unsatisfactory	2	1	3 (30%)
Failure	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 3. ROM (%) * according to the number of proximal half-pins

ROM	Number of half pin	
	2 Half-pins	3 Half-pins
Flexion	171° (95%)	163.8° (91%)
Abduction	129.6° (72%)	127.8° (71%)
Internal Rotation	72° (90%)	69.6° (87%)
External Rotation	51.6° (86%)	41.4° (69%)

* Average ROM (%) of operated shoulder compared with uninjured shoulder

5 8 6.4 , 1
 25° , 2
 1 , 1 가
 4.0 mm half-pin 2
 가
 7
 가
 가 4 , 3 , 3
 , 3

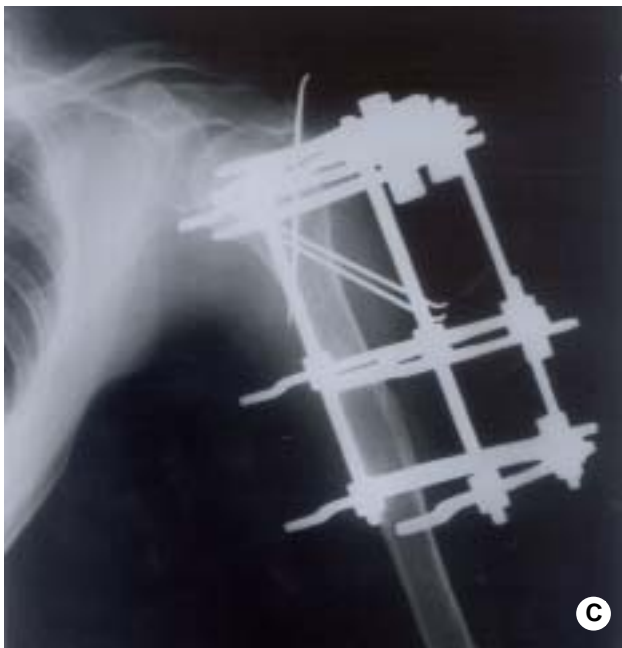


Fig. 1A-D. (A, B) 74 year-old female patient suffered from right shoulder pain due to slip down injury. Preoperative AP and axial radiographs showed two-part proximal humerus fracture and diffuse osteoporosis.
 (C) Closed reduction and temporary percutaneous pin fixation was done. We also applied external fixator to gain rigid fixation.
 (D) On follow-up radiograph, bony union was obtained and functional result was satisfactory with full ROM.

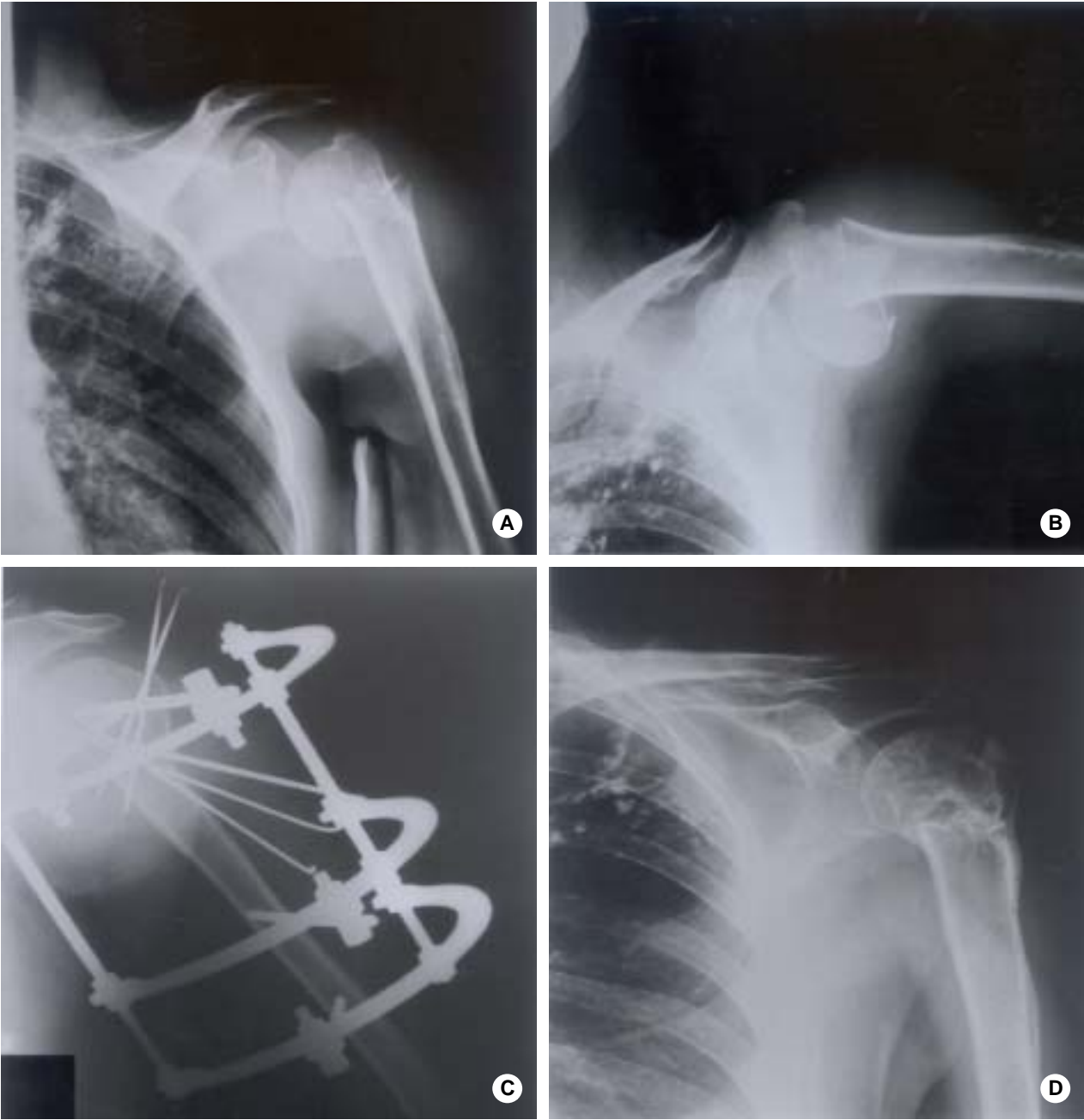


Fig. 2A-D. (A, B) Preoperative AP and axial radiographs of right shoulder in 54 year-old female patient showed three-part proximal humerus fracture with severe comminution. (C) The external fixator was applied after satisfactory closed reduction. (D) On follow-up radiograph, bony union was obtained and functional result was excellent.

2
가 1 ,
2 1 (Table 2).
가 , half-pin ,
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