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**The Journal of the Korean Society of Fractures**  
Vol.11, No.3, July, 1998

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= Abstract =

## Operative Treatment of Olecranon Fractures Using Tension Band Wiring

Hyun-Dae Shin, M.D., Kwang-Jin Rhee, M.D., June-Kyu Lee, M.D., Joon-Young Yang, M.D., Young-Mo Kim, M.D., Mun-Jong Lee, M.D. and Jin-Soo Kim, M.D\*.

*Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, College of Medicine Chungnam National University Hospital,  
Taejeon, Korea and Taejeon Sungshim General Hospital\*.*

We treated 26 cases(25 patients) olecranon fractures operatively with Kirschner wire and tension band wiring technique from January 1993 to December 1995. The Kirschner wire fixation methods in our study were either bicortical fixation(15 cases) or intramedullary fixation(11 cases). We retrospectively reviewed clinical results according to Mayo elbow performance index and starting time of full range of motion(ROM) exercise. We analyzed relationship between the clinical results of the cases with cast immobilization and those without cast immobilization. We also compared Kirschner wire fixation methods in the respect of clinical results, full ROM exercise starting time and complications. The results were as follows.

1. Clinical results were excellent or good in 25 cases(96%) according to Mayo elbow performance index. Full ROM exercise starting time was within 2weeks in 10 cases, between

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Tel : 042) 220-7349, 7342, 7343 Fax : 042) 252-7098

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2-3weeks in 11 cases, between 5-6weeks in four cases and after 6weeks in one case. Full ROM exercise starting time was significantly different( $P=0.016$ ) with clinical results statistically and there was statistically high significant difference( $P=0.0025$ ) between clinical results and cast immobilization or not.

2. Clinical results of bicortical fixation group was not significantly different from those of intramedullary fixation group and there was no significant difference between full ROM exercise starting time and Kirschner fixation methods statistically.
3. The most frequent complications were decreased ROM and loosening of the Kirschner wire. There were decreased ROM In 10 cases and loosening of the Kirschner wire in 6 cases in all cases. We encountered more higher incidence of complications related to intramedullary fixation method.

The clinical results and full ROM exercise starting time of bicortical fixation group were not significantly different with those of intramedullary fixation group statistically. But more early exercise, more better clinical results and more less complications was produced in bicortical fixation group. So we thought bicortical fixation method is better than intramedullary fixation method.

**Key Words :** Olecranon, Fracture, Tension band wiring

Fyfe<sup>11)</sup>  
가  
가  
, Morrey<sup>21)</sup> 가 , 가 가  
50% , 24) (screw plus wire)  
5) 62% 가 가  
, 가  
5,9,6,13,18) ,  
Lister<sup>14)</sup>가 1883 (wire loop) 1963 Weber  
, Vasey<sup>28)</sup>  
,  
가 Wadsworth<sup>27)</sup> K- (olecranon screw)  
11) , 1982 Nets Stromberg  
(Wiring),  
(Tension band wiring), Nets  
(Intramedullary fixation), (Plate), 17,18,25),  
(External fixation) 1992 Rowland Burkhart<sup>26)</sup> 2 K-  
(Excision) , (Rush-pin)  
13) 8

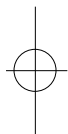


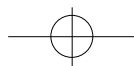
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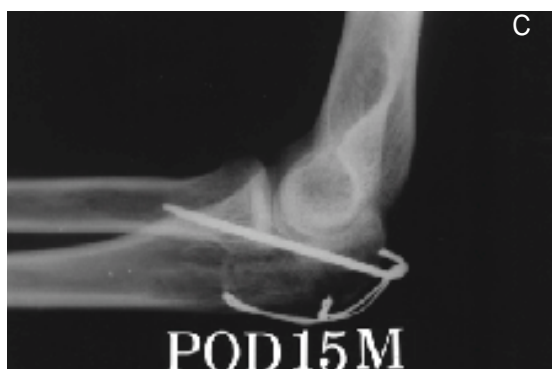
elbow performance index<sup>22)</sup> 가 .

(open up)  
 . AO <sup>23)</sup> K- , , . K-  
 (bicortical fixation) 9,23) 가 ,  
 K- ,  
 K- ,  
 (intramedullary SPSS Mann-Whitney U test  
 (bicortical) Kruskal-Wallis 1-way Anova test . Mayo  
 fixation) elbow performance index ,  
 fixation) ,  
 , 가 , 가  
 45 , 0  
 30 , 15 가 100 °  
 20 , 50-100 ° 15 50 ° 5  
 1. 10 , 5  
 1993 1 1995 12 0 ,  
 K- , 1 가 가 25 , 26  
 K- , , , , 가  
 5 90 (Excellent), 89-75  
 (intramedullary fixation) , 15 , 11 (Good), 74-60 (Fair) 60  
 (bicortical fixation) . Mayo <sup>7,9)</sup> Type I 2 (Poor)  
 (7.7%), IIa 15 (57.7%), IIb 6 (23.1%), IIIa 2 (7.7%)  
 IIIb 1 (3.8%) Type IIa 가 3.  
 가 14 가 5 K- 2가  
 , 6 , 7 가 68 (Fig 1)  
 , 39.2 가 15 , K-  
 가 10 , 13 , 13 , 1 K-  
 8  
 . 15 1 ,  
 , 3 (Fig 2) K-  
 2 2 (coronoid  
 process)  
 8  
 2. 7  
 K-  
 Mayo 90% , 5

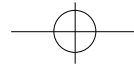




**Fig 1.** Sixty-four-year-old-male  
 A. Preoperative simple lateral radiograph, showing Mayo type IIa olecranon fracture.  
 B. Immediate postoperative radiograph, he was treated operatively with tension band wiring and K-wire fixation method was intramedullary fixation. Full ROM exercise starting time was between 2-3 weeks after operation.  
 C. postoperative 12 months radiograph, showing loosening of kirschner wires, but full ROM was done and clinical result was



**Fig 2.** Fifty-three-year-old-female  
 A. Preoperative simple lateral radiograph, showing Mayo type IIa olecranon fracture.  
 B. Immediate postoperative radiograph, she was treated operatively with tension band wiring and K-wire fixation method was bicortical fixation. Full ROM exercise starting time was within 2 weeks after operation.  
 C. postoperative 15 months radiograph, showing rigid fixation state and no loosening of kirschner wires. Full ROM was done and clinical result was excellent.



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Table 1. Data on the patients.

Case	Gender, age at op.(yrs)	Fx. side	Fx. mechanism	Fx. classification	Associated injuries	Same elbow injuries	Op. name
1	M,22	Rt	TA	type IIa	L/E <sup>†</sup>	No	Bicortical fixation
2	M,24	Lt	TA	type I	L/E	No	Bicortical fixation
3	M,26	Rt	TA	type IIa	No	No	Bicortical fixation
4	M,27	Lt	fall down	type IIa	brain, facial bone	No	intramedullary fixation
5		Rt	fall down	type IIa	No	No	intramedullary fixation
6	M,31	Rt	TA	type IIa	pelvis, sacrum	No	Bicortical fixation
7	M,32	Lt	TA	type IIIa	L/E	Lat. condyle Fx. D/L. of radial head	Bicortical fixation
8	F,33	Rt	fall down	type IIa	pelvis, sacrum, L/E	No	Bicortical fixation
9	M,38	Rt	fall down	type IIb	No	No	Bicortical fixation
10	F,42	Lt	TA	type IIa	rib, pelvis, sacrum	No	Bicortical fixation
11	M,44	Rt	TA	type IIIb	pelvis, sacrum, L/E	No	Bicortical fixation
12	F,42	Lt	TA	type IIb	contralateral U/E <sup>‡</sup>	side wiper injury	intramedullary fixation
13	M,48	Lt	TA	type IIb	L/E	intercondyle Fx.	Bicortical fixation
14	F,51	Lt	TA	type IIIa	No	No	Bicortical fixation
15	F,53	Lt	TA	type IIa	brain, ipsilateral humerus, L/E	No	Bicortical fixation
16	F,55	Lt	TA	type IIb	No	No	intramedullary fixation
17	F,61	Rt	slip down	type IIa	No	No	intramedullary fixation
18	F,68	Rt	slip down	type IIa	No	No	Bicortical fixation
19	M,7	Lt	slip down	type IIa	No	No	Bicortical fixation
20	M,20	Rt	TA	type IIa	brain	No	Bicortical fixation
21	M,62	Rt	fall down	type IIa	contralateral U/E	No	intramedullary fixation
22	M,24	Lt	slip down	type I	No	No	intramedullary fixation
23	M,60	Lt	fall down	type IIb	L/E	No	intramedullary fixation
24	M,64	Rt	slip down	type IIa	No	No	intramedullary fixation
25	F,33	Rt	TA	type IIb	ipsilateral humerus, rib	No	intramedullary fixation
26	F,12	Lt	fall down	type IIa	No	No	intramedullary fixation

TA=Traffic accident, <sup>†</sup> L/E=lower extremity, <sup>‡</sup> U/E=upper extremity  
<sup>§</sup>comb hair, feed, hygiene, shirt and shoe are 5 point respectively.

- (active-assistive) ,  
 135. 26 Mayo elbow performance  
 2 index 가 19 , 6  
 가 1  
 (96%)  
 5-6  
 14 26  
 10 2 , 11  
 2-3 가



Removal of int. fixator	Complication	Cast or not	Full ROM exercise starting time	Pain	Range of motion (°)	Instability	Function §	Total score	Mayo elbow performance index.
No	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	post-traumatic arthritis, ROM limitation	No	2-3wks	Mild	35-120	Stable	25	80	Good
No	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	No	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	ROM limitation	No	within 2wks	Mild	20-full	Stable	25	85	Good
No	ROM limitation	Yes	5-6wks	Mild	20-full	Stable	25	85	Good
No	ROM limitation	Yes	after 6wks	Mild	10-100	Stable	10	65	Fair
Yes	non-union, ROM limitation	Yes	5-6wks	Mild	10-120	Stable	20	80	Good
Yes	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	No	No	within 2wks	Mild	full	Stable	25	85	Excellent
No	non-union	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	No	No	within 2wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	pin prominence	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	ulnar neuropathy, ROM limitation	No	2-3wks	Mild	10-120	Stable	25	85	Good
No	ROM limitation	No	2-3wks	None	10-120	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	pin prominence, ROM limitation	Yes	5-6wks	None	20-full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	pin prominence, ROM limitation	No	2-3wks	None	20-full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
No	pin prominence	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent
Yes	pin prominence, ROM limitation	Yes	5-6wks	Mild	30-full	Stable	25	85	Good
Yes	infection, pin prominence	No	2-3wks	None	full	Stable	25	100	Excellent

, 4 5-6 가

, 1 26 5

6 . 1 , 3

2 가 10 21 , 18 , 3

9 , 1 , 2-3 가

11 9 , 2 , 5-6

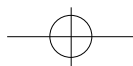
가 4 1 , 3 (2-tailed P=0.0025)가 ..

, 6 가 1 K- 가

. , 11 8 , 2

(P=0.016)가 . 1 ,

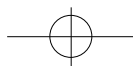




(Tension band wiring),  
(Wiring), (Intramedullary fixation), K-  
(Plate), (External fixation) K-  
(Excision),  
, (intramedullary fixation)  
2,11,20,24), (bicortical fixation) . 가  
. 2 가2 ,2-  
26 3 6 ,5-6 가2 6 가  
가 19 ,6 1 가1 ,  
,2 8 ,2-3 5 ,5-6  
(96%) 가2 , 가  
. 90% 가  
Coonrad<sup>9)</sup> , 4)  
82%, 1) 81% . 11 8 ,2 1  
가 , 15 11 ,4  
. Colton  
8), Horne 13), Wadsworth 27),  
Wolfgang 30) Mayo 7,9)  
, 가 Weseley 가 29),  
Helm 가 12) Mayo elbow performance  
index<sup>22)</sup> ,  
20,21),  
Mayo , 가 Mayo  
elbow performance index 가 1,20).  
1963 Weber Vasey<sup>28)</sup> 0 °  
140-150 °  
, AO 30-130 °  
K- 22) 3) 가  
9,23) K- ,Eriksson 10) 50%  
가 가 , 1)  
가 ,3 3%  
(three point fixation) K- 48%  
4) 34% 15 °  
, 가 26 10 ,38.4%  
가 .







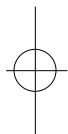
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8 가 100. 가 96%  
 , Mayo elbow performance  
 index 가 20 , 10 2 , 11  
 Mayo elbow performance index 2-3 , 4 5-6 1  
 . 2 6 .  
 가 15  
 , (P=0.016)가  
 , 10 K-  
 가  
 7 (63.6%), (2-tailed P=0.0025) 가  
 3 (20%)  
 가  
 Macko Szabo 20) 75% 2.. 가  
 , 15% ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 . Hume 15) 42%  
 , 1) 52%  
 . 26 6 , 23.1% 3. 가 10 (38.4%)  
 , 가 , K-  
 15 1 (6.6%)  
 , 7 (63.6%), 3 (20%)  
 11 5 (45.4%) 가  
 . 6(23.1%) ,  
 11 5 (45.4%),  
 15 1 (6.6%)  
 가  
 K-

1993 1 1995 12  
 K-  
 , 1 가가 25 , 26 가 , 가  
 ,  
 , K-  
 가

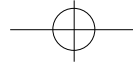
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