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= Abstract =

Metal failure after compression plate fixation in femoral shaft fracture.

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Intramedullary nailing is one of the most available method in the treatment of femoral shaft fracture. Recently compression plate is not widely used. Inappropriate technique using compression plate lead to metal failure. The purpose of this study is to analyz the clinical feature, cause and treatment of metal failure in femoral shaft fracture.

We analyzed 6 cases of metal failure from Jan.1990. to Dec. 1996 and obtained the following results.

1. Type of fracture were Winkist-Hansen Type I in 1 case, Type II 3 cases, Type III 2 cases.
- 2, The interval between initial operation and metal failure was 11 months on average, ranging from one to twenty months.
3. Metal failure occurred as plate breakage in 4 cases, plate bending and loosening in 2 cases.
4. Cause of metal failure after compression plate fixation presumed to be comminuted fracture in 5 cases, early weight bearing in 3 cases, remaining bone defect in 4 cases, inadequate surgical technique in 4 cases and empty plate hole in 4 cases.

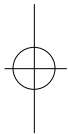
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5. Treatment of metal failure after compression plate fixation were intramedullary nailing with bone graft in all cases.

Accurate preoperative evaluation of fracture site, fracture pattern, and appropriate selection of metal device necessary for the prevention of metal failure and we suggest that open intramedullary nailing is suitable method for treatment of metal failure.

Key Word : Metal failure, Compression plate fixation, femur shaft fracture

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AO dynamic compression plate

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Table 1. Classification of Fracture (by Winqvist and Hansen)

Grade	Degree	No. of case
I	Chip or small fragment	1
II	At least 50% cortical contact	3
III	Less than 50% cortical contact	2
IV	No cortical contact	0
Segmental		1



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Table 2. Data of Patients

Case	Age/Sex	W.H.C*	B/G	Metal failure Postop	Metal failure Pattern	2. operation
1	65/F	II	-	20Mo	Plate breakage	O/R & I/F with ZMS
2	14/F	I	-	4Mo	Bending and loosening	O/R & I/F with RT
3	35/M	III	+	1Mo	Bending and loosening	O/R & I/F with ACE
4	63/F	II	-	18Mo	Plate breakage	O/R & I/F with Kuncher
5	30/M	II	-	7Mo	Plate breakage	O/R & I/F with Kuncher
6	50/M	III	-	18Mo	Plate breakage	O/R & I/F with RT

W.H.C.:Winquist-Hansen classification RT:Russel-Taylor nail ZMS:Zimmer nail ACE:ACE titanium nail
B/G:Bone graft

Table 3. Cause of metal failure

	plate bending & loosening	plate breakage
early wt bearing	2	1
remaining bone defect	1	3
inadequate surgical technique & implant	2	2
empty plate hole	1	3

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Prebending

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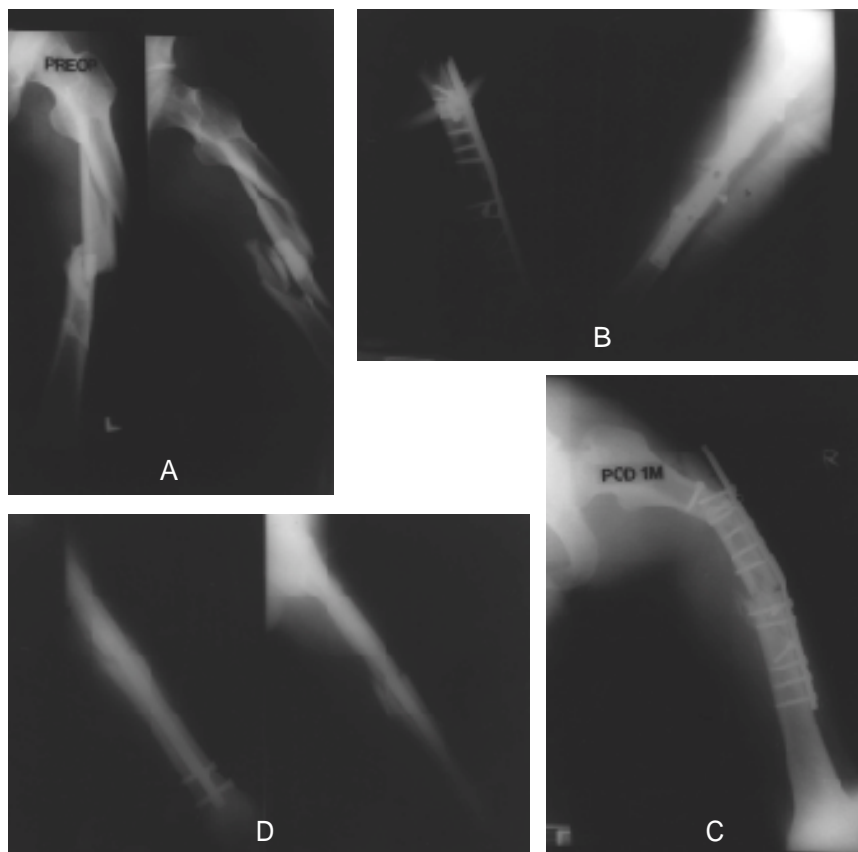
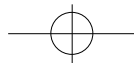


Fig 1-A. Preoperative radiograph of 35 years old male who had comminuted fracture of femur
 B. Postoperative radiograph showing plate length & number of fixed screw are not enough at proximal from fracture site
 C. Radiograph showing metal failure in 1 month after first operation
 D. Radiograph of 6 months after surgery with open reduction and intramedullary nailing with bone

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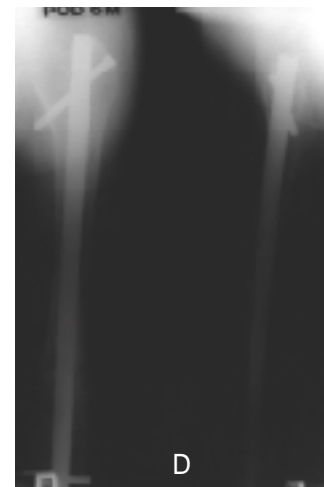
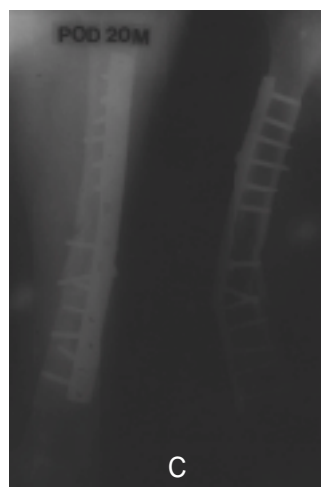


Fig 2-A. Preoperative radiograph of 65 years old female who had comminuted fracture of femur

B. Postoperative radiograph showing excessive prebending of plate

C. Radiograph showing metallic failure in 20 months after first operation

D. Radiograph of 6 months after surgery with open reduction and intramedullary nailing with bone graft



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Laurence¹⁰⁾

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Jorge⁹⁾

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metal failure 가

Pohler¹⁴⁾

stress concentration

David⁶⁾Magerl¹¹⁾,Herbert⁸⁾Schatzker¹⁷⁾

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Dana⁴⁾

compression plate

. Magerl¹¹⁾



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