

# Segmental Bone Loss Due To Chronic Tibia Osteomyelitis: A Case Report

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## INTRODUCTION:

Paediatric osteomyelitis is a severe infection and diagnostic delay is associated with poor outcome. We report our experience in managing a case of chronic osteomyelitis with segmental tibia bone loss in a paediatric patient.

## CASE REPORT:

A 3-year-old girl presented left leg pain for 5 days. On examination, she was feverish, left leg was swollen, erythematous and tender. She was treated for left leg abscess with osteomyelitis (OM) left tibia. She was started on intravenous cloxacillin and underwent incision and drainage of left leg. Intraoperative culture was confirmed to be *Staphylococcus Aureus*. Antibiotic was changed to clindamycin for better bone penetration. She was discharged after 3 weeks but returned one week later with recurrent symptoms. Radiographically, there is lytic lesion with pathological fracture left tibia. Antibiotic restarted and fracture was splinted. On follow up, latest xray showed 7cm segmental bone loss over left tibia. She subsequently underwent illizarov external fixation of left tibia with bone

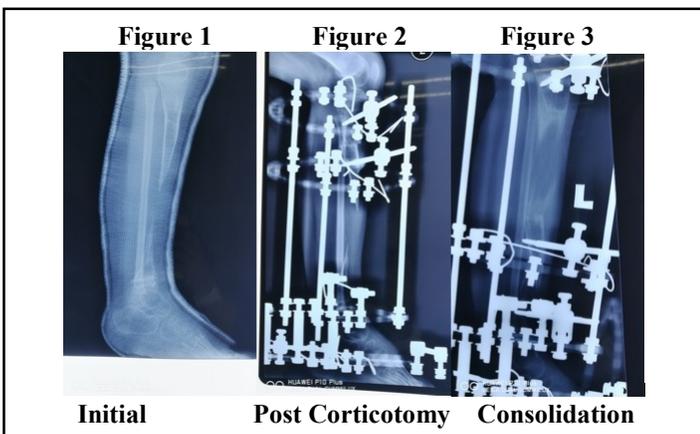
resulting osseous defect requires an appropriate replacement and sufficient stabilization. Distraction osteogenesis with illizarov external fixation can improved osseous blood supply and encourage fracture union.

## CONCLUSION:

The management of chronic osteomyelitis in children is still challenging and successful treatment can only be achieved when the patient and parents give their commitment to the treatment.

## REFERENCES:

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2. Kucukkaya M, Kabukcuoglu Y, Tezer M, Kuzgun U. Management of childhood chronic tibial osteomyelitis with the Ilizarov method. *J Pediatr Orthop* 2002;22:632-7.



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## DISCUSSIONS:

Bacterial osteomyelitis frequently involved tibia bone, with *S. aureus* being the main causative agent. Treatment of chronic osteomyelitis in childhood, besides antibiotic, consists of adequate surgical debridement. The