

## THE ANKLE WITHOUT TALUS : A RARE CASE OF AN OPEN TALAR EXTRUSION WITH DISTAL TIBIA FIBULA FRACTURE

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**Introduction:** A total talar extrusion is extremely rare injury which frequently associated with severe soft tissue injury, disruption of the talar blood supply and fractures of surrounding bones. It has a high complication of avascular necrosis, infection and secondary osteoarthritis. The authors present a case of an open talar extrusion with distal tibia fibula fracture focusing on its management and outcome.

**Discussion:** A 30 years old Dusun gentleman presented to ED after sustaining left leg injury from motor vehicle accident. During the fall, the foot was forcibly twisted. He denied losing consciousness or sustaining other injuries. Examination of the leg revealed a wound over the left ankle with exposed, dislocated talus without any soft tissue attachment. Neurovascular was intact. Radiograph revealed complete dislocation of left talus with distal third tibia/fibula fracture. CMR was done in ED but was unsuccessful. He was taken to operating room for debridement, reduction of talus and cross ankle external fixation of left lower limb. Post operatively, patient was kept non-weight bearing. The wound healed uneventfully without sign of infection. At second month, he underwent interlocking nailing of tibia with syndesmotic screw insertion. He was allowed partial weight bearing at fourth month. At 14th month post operation, X-ray shows fracture union without sign of talus avascular necrosis and patient was able to function and resume his job as a lorry driver.

**Conclusion:** Open total dislocation of the talus with extrusion out of the skin without any soft tissue attachments (missing talus) is an extremely rare injury. Primary talus reimplantation is the treatment of choice, preserving good ankle function, normal joint anatomy, and avoiding further reconstructive procedures. Early reimplantation using proper reduction techniques, administration of antibiotics, preservation of remaining viable soft tissue, early soft tissue closure, and early postoperative rehabilitation can enhance patient prognosis.