

# Fracture Of Odontoid Process In 4 Years Old Child; A Rare Case Report

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## INTRODUCTION

Odontoid fractures are rare in children; they may, however, occur at any age with a prevalence in younger children.

## MATERIALS & METHODS:

We report a case of a 4 year old boy victim of motor vehicle accident, Patient was front passenger with safety belt on. The boy suffered from loss of consciousness and regain consciousness when admitted to emergency department. He suffered from multiple abrasion over left forehead, eyelid and cheek. On examination noted tenderness over neck region with limited range of motion. Fortunately the boy had no neurology deficit on him. This patient was immobilised in cervical hard collar and complete rest in bed

## RESULTS:

Radiograph and CT Scan cervical was done to evaluate fracture pattern. Fracture was maintained by Minerva occipitomandibular plaster cast which applied when patient on sedation.

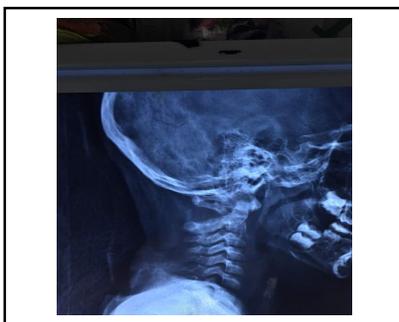


Figure 1 show AP view of cervical xray



FIGURE 2 MINERVA CAST

## DISCUSSIONS:

Odontoid fractures are rare in children; they may, however, occur at any age with a prevalence in younger children. Below the age of 9, there is almost exclusively a separation of the subdental synchondrosis, whereas in children older than 9 years, the basal odontoid fracture resembles the adult type. Clinically, a substantial lesion of the upper cervical spine cannot be excluded the symptoms of odontoid fracture, such as neck pain or neck stiffness, being subtle and unspecific. Therefore, the diagnosis of odontoid fractures is based on radiographic screening of traumatized cervical spines with a standard three-view program (anteroposterior, lateral and openmouth). Computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging are reserved to special indications. Acute odontoid fracture is mainly treated conservatively, preferably with a Minerva cast. In exceptional cases, operation with preservation of C1/C2 mobility may be indicated.

## CONCLUSION:

Most of the Odontoid fracture in small children is Odontoid synchondrotic fracture but odontoid process fracture is a rare event. Most patients with odontoid fracture can be treated by external immobilization alone

## REFERENCES:

1. Fracture of odontoid in children European Journal Of Trauma. May 2001, Volume 27, Issue 2, pp 49-57