

FRACTURE IN HAEMOPHILIC ELBOW ARTHROPATHY: OUR EXPERIENCE

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INTRODUCTION:

Haemophilic arthropathy is defined by recurring hemarthroses that cause progressive joint damage and commonly occur in severe haemophiliacs¹. However, incidence of concomitant olecranon fracture in haemophilic arthropathy elbow joint has been scarce.

REPORT:

A 51 year old gentleman, with underlying hemophilia on treatment fall and sustained left elbow pain. Clinically, the left elbow was tender and swollen with intact neurovascular. Plain radiographs of left elbow joint revealed severe joint destructions, including incongruity of joint surfaces, cartilage irregularity, joint space narrowing secondary to hemosiderin deposition pathology. Plain radiographs also revealed there was olecranon fracture (Figure 1).

However, patient refused surgical intervention and therefore treated conservative with a cast for 6 weeks and subsequently referred to physiotherapy team for elbow range of motion (ROM) exercise. Follow up plain radiography showed signs of union in fracture site (Figure 2).

Upon follow up at 7 months, he was noted to have painless left elbow with (ROM) of 5-110 degree and strength with radiography evidence of united olecranon fracture (Figure 3).

CONCLUSION:

Risk of fracture increases among hemophilic arthropathy joint following low energy trauma. A better understanding of the overall nature of this pathology would aid surgeons in advising patients on prognosis and expected recovery.



Figure 1: Lateral and Anteroposterior view of left elbow radiograph post trauma



Figure 2: Lateral view of left elbow radiograph 6 weeks post trauma



Figure 3: Lateral view of left elbow radiograph 7 months post trauma

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