

## Informed Consent: Dilemma of Treating Surgeon in settling of Family conflict

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### INTRODUCTION:

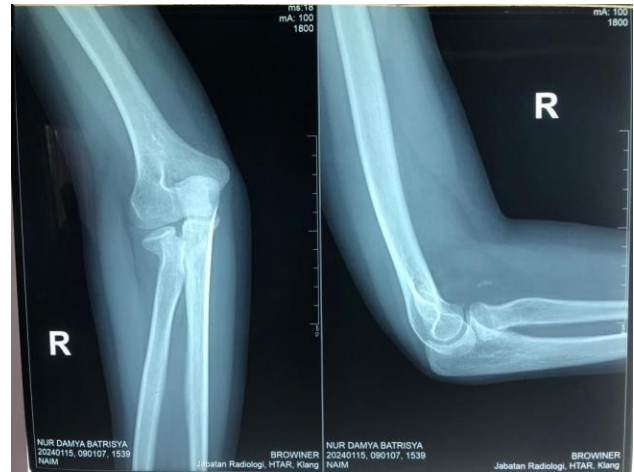
Informed consent (IC) is a challenging topic for surgeons in everyday practice. Currently, it is not only necessary to formally document the IC process, but it is also a medico-legal affair. There are specific legal requirements that vary somewhat by state but generally include disclosure and documentation of the diagnosis, an explanation of the recommended procedure, the risks and benefits of the procedure, and a discussion about alternative treatments.

### REPORT:

A 13-year-old girl was presented with pain and swelling over right proximal forearm after an alleged accident. There were no other injuries. Plain radiograph showed an angulated radial neck fracture. Although the patient was advised for surgery, her parents were split in the decision, with the mother opted for surgery while the father elected for conservative management. They were then given an appointment in the clinic a week later, but the parents were yet to reach a consensual decision then. A consensus for surgery was only attained three weeks after the accident. By then, the patient had achieved both clinical and radiological union. Despite the malunion, the range of motion of the right elbow resembled the left side. The child was then planned to be followed up regularly.



**Figure 1:** Plain radiograph during the initial trauma



**Figure 2:** Plain radiograph after three weeks

### CONCLUSION:

Consent in minor age can be challenging and some parents are skeptical about surgery for their children. Unambiguous explanation and good rapport between parents and surgeon are vital. Most importantly, the parents and patients should never be coerced, and the decided treatment must be agreed unanimously by all party.

### REFERENCES

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