

Proximal Femoral Plating For Fracture Of Proximal Fractures; How Good It Is

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With the increasing number of femur fractures, there will be an increasing need for surgical intervention. As a result, there will be an increasing number of failures and the need for revision surgery. In simple pertrochanteric fractures of proximal femur, implants like the dynamic hip screw and intramedullary devices are generally recommended and proven to be superior.

Unstable fractures of the trochanteric region are challenging injuries due to the particular anatomy of the proximal femur, the high loads transmitted via the hip joint, loss of posteromedial support or the lateral femoral wall is broken where instability mainly comes from the loss of lateral wall support when the proximal fragment slides down.

When both the posteromedial support and the integrity of the lateral femoral wall are lost, is still controversial especially when the fracture line is extending to the greater trochanter. This specific fracture type is challenging for nailing because the entry point is along the main fracture line and the free lateral femoral wall fragment cannot be stabilized effectively with the nail itself.

For this reason, plating is a reasonable alternative to nailing of such fractures. Several plate designs have been developed over the last decades for the treatment of unstable proximal femur fractures such as sliding screws with side plate or angle blade plate.

More recently, locking plates such as proximal femoral locking plate is available and have gained increased popularity for the management of complex proximal femur fractures. However, this implant is not a sole solution for the problems as it has its own shortfall if incorrectly use in this type of unstable fractures thus high rate of mechanical failure can be expected. This topic will discuss how good proximal locking plate in fixation of this type fracture.