

# THE FUNCTIONAL OUTCOME USING ULNA LENGTHENING BY EXTERNAL FIXATOR IN TREATING PATIENTS WITH RADIAL HEAD DISLOCATION

Department of orthopedic surgery, Guro hospital of Korea university medical center.

Jun - Gyu Moon, M.D., Hae - Ryong Song, M.D., Jae - Hyuk Yang, M.D.

## Purpose

To analyze the outcome of ulna lengthening by external fixator in patients with chronic radial head dislocation.

## Material and methods

Six patients with chronic radial head dislocation were treated with gradual ulna lengthening by external fixator. Mean age was 9.5 years(5 to 15) and the mean interval between the injury and surgery was 22 months(2 months to 7 years). The technique consisted of a transverse proximal ulna osteotomy and progressive lengthening. At follow - up, the patients were evaluated clinically and for reduction of radial head.

## Results

Five radial heads were reduced and remained so at follow - up. One patient remained unreduced. Mean elongation of ulna was 21.7 mm. Ranges of motion for flexion, extension were improved. Two patients had mild restriction of forearm rotation. There were one superficial pin-track infections and one delayed union.

## Conclusion

Treating chronic radial head dislocation patients by ulna lengthening with external fixator shows good clinical results.

## Key Words

Radial head dislocation, Ulna lengthening, External fixator