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Current concepts and newer plating systems in management of condylar fracture - a pilot study

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Condylar fractures account for 25-35% of mandibular fractures and deserve a special consideration apart from rest of the mandible due to their anatomical differences and healing potential. Previous clinical and biomechanical studies have recommended using two miniplates for fixation of condyle fractures. Two miniplates require a certain size of the proximal condyle fragment and thus are applicable mainly in cases involving low fractures. The present study evaluates the clinical use of indigenously developed titanium delta-shaped miniplate in open reduction and internal fixation of subcondylar fracture. Conventional wisdom has suggested closed reduction as the treatment of choice for mandibular fractures for decades. With the cutting edge research and methodologies the conventional wisdom stands outdated. Condylar fractures account for 25-35% of mandibular fractures and deserve a special consideration apart from rest of the mandible due to their anatomical differences and healing potential. But the sequela of the condylar injuries cannot be considered suboptimal with regard to occlusion, reduced mouth opening, deviation of the mandible, impaired mastication, ankylosis and internal derangement. Consequently the need for accurate surgical anatomical reduction to achieve the desired outcome proves prudent. Different approaches (e.g., preauricular, submandibular, retroauricular, retromandibular, transoral, or combinations thereof), and different fixation techniques (e.g., plates, screws, or lag screws) are used. Previous clinical and biomechanical studies have recommended using two miniplates for fixation of condyle fractures. Two miniplates require a certain size of the proximal condyle fragment and thus are applicable mainly in cases involving low fractures. It also includes use of excess armamentarium and an increased exposure of the condylar region. The present study evaluates the clinical use of indigenously developed titanium delta-shaped miniplate in open reduction and internal fixation of subcondylar fracture.

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