

Management of hand trauma – a COVID-19 experience and outcomes of tubular bone fractures

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Introduction:

Management of hand trauma has evolved to incorporate assessment and treatment of patients in a single clinic on initial presentation. Our aim was to evaluate the effect of COVID-19 on hand trauma management, and the effect of social distancing and attempts to minimize face-to-face consultations.

Methodology:

Patients with hand fractures were consecutively assessed from March to May 2020. Patient demographics, injury mechanisms, prevalence of fractures were collected. A disability assessment questionnaire was completed on follow-up to assess the outcomes of the management provided during the pandemic.

Results:

268 patients were identified, 82 had fractures involving tubular bones of the hand. 62 were male and 20 were female. Mean age was 40.3 (SD 19.7). Mechanism of injury was secondary to home-related injuries (34%) and falls (28%). Fractures involving the metacarpals (n=24) and distal phalanx (n=20) were most seen. 35 patients underwent surgery whereas 47 were managed conservatively. 30 responses were obtained at 6 months follow-up which showed no difference in functional outcome as mean quick-DASH scores were similar for conservatively and operatively managed patients (p=0.05).

Conclusion: Overall management of hand fractures remained optimized throughout the pandemic. Satisfactory functional outcomes were observed for patients treated during this ongoing crisis. Review of the Value of a Bladder Scan in Cauda Equina Syndrome Diagnosis. *Cureus* 13(4): e14441. doi:10.7759/cureus.14441

Biography

Djamila Rojoa is a core surgical trainee with an interest in plastics surgery. She has performed multiple reviews and original researches and has a passion for academic medicine. She is a graduate of the University of Manchester, and is currently working in Leicester.

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