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Research Article

**PERCUTANEOUS PINNING WITH CROSSED K-WIRE AND  
CLOSED REDUCTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF TYPE III  
SUPRACONDYLAR FRACTURES OF THE HUMERUS IN  
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**Abstract:**

**Aim:** To evaluate the result of closed reduction and percutaneous pinning in the treatment of type III supracondylar fracture of the humerus in children.

**Materials and methods:** Sixty-one patients were treated for type III supracondylar fractures of the humerus in the orthopedic ward of Jinnah Hospital Lahore.

**Study design:** This is a prospective study.

**Place and Duration:** In the Orthopedic Unit II of Jinnah Hospital Lahore for one year duration from January 2019 to January 2020.

**Results:** Union was achieved in all patients; superficial pinhole infections were observed in 6 patients, iatrogenic elbow injury occurred in 3 patients, Cubitus varus and Myositis ossificans in one patient respectively. No deep infection or compartment syndrome was encountered; the results were excellent in 40 patients, good in 16 patients, good in 3 and poor in 2 patients.

**Conclusion:** Close reduction and percutaneous pinning with two K-cross wires is an effective and safe procedure with a minimum incidence of complications in the treatment of type III supracondylar fracture of the humerus.

**Keywords:** Close reduction, supracondylar fracture humerus, percutaneous pinning.

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The fracture of the humerus of the carpal bone is the most common fracture around the elbow in children and accounts for about 3% of all fractures in children. The supracondylar humerus fracture is caused by the extension of the outstretched arm and is divided into two types: extension type and flexion type. About 96% of supracondylar fractures have the type of extension and are further classified, as described by Gartland, according to the degree of displacement of the distal fragment. Type I is an uninhabited fracture, type II is displaced with intact posterior cortex, type III is completely displaced without contact between fragments.

The supracondylar fracture in children should be treated appropriately to prevent complications such as elbow stiffness, twist and valgus deformities, compartment syndrome, neurovascular damage, and bone cans. Various treatments are available for treating a humerus fracture in children, such as lateral shoulder adhesion, overhead skeletal traction, closed reduction and throwing, closed reduction and percutaneous pinning, and open reduction and internal fixation.

Type III supracondylar Fractures of the humerus in children are usually treated by closed reduction and transcutaneous fixation of K wires, but open reduction and fixation is performed if adequate reduction cannot be achieved by closed manipulation.

Closed reduction and two crossed K-wires, one medial and one lateral percutaneous fixation under the image enhancer are the treatment of choice. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the short-term results of closed reduction and percutaneous pinning in Gartland Type III Supracondylar Humerus fracture in our circumstances.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

A prospective descriptive study was conducted in the Orthopedic Unit II of Jinnah Hospital Lahore for one-year duration from January 2019 to January 2020. 61 patients were included in the study all were closed Gartland type III supracondylar Humerus fractures. Patients aged 2 to 12 years were included. Patients with vascular damage were excluded from the study. There were 39 boys and 22 girls, the left side was involved in 35 patients and 26 patients in the right side. All patients were admitted to the emergency department. Detailed interview and clinical examination were carried out on admission after obtaining informed consent. Patients underwent side arm traction or were placed in the side rail for temporary stabilization. Further neurovascular condition was closely monitored.

Patients were prepared for surgery the next day for surgery.

Surgical technique: under general anesthesia, the patient was scrubbed and placed on his back on the operating table with a fracture elbow placed on the main tube of the C-arm. The assistant held his hand and the surgeon applied longitudinal traction to release the fracture site, and then correct the medial and lateral displacement. The elbow was then bent at an angle of more than 90 °, holding the longitudinal traction, the surgeon's thumb pushed the tip of the olecranon forward simultaneously at the same time, the reduction is checked by the C-arm image intensifier, after confirming the reduction, K wire diameter 1 was used to repair the fracture, 6 mm. Usually, we first place the K wire from the medial epicondyle, touching the ulnar nerve and medial epicondyle.

The ulnar nerve was pushed backwards with a straight front side, making a small incision slightly forward to the medial wrist.

Both pins were seized, avoiding the bottom of the olecranon, after inserting the medial pin and confirming by fluoroscopy, we placed a side pin from the lateral epicondyle so that the side pin would cut the middle pin above the fracture line. Then the knee is extended, position and reduction are confirmed by the image intensifier, distal pulses are checked, the wire is bent to 90 ° and cut outside the skin and left on the skin.

The posterior splint is administered in the 80 ° to 90 ° elbow flexion and in the neutral part of the forearm. Every two weeks they were followed for two months and then every month for a year.

**RESULTS:**

All 61 patients completed follow-up. There were 39 (63.9%) men and 22 (36.1%) women. The ratio of men to women was 1.8: 1. The left side concerned 45 (73.8%) patients, and the right side concerned 16 (26.2%) patients. The average age was 6.7 years and the age range was 2 to 12 years. The results were evaluated according to Flynn 11 criteria and are given in Figure 1.

The poor result in our study was caused by ossificans myositis in one (1.64%) patient and elbow deformity in another. Iatrogenic ulnar nerve palsy occurred in 3 (4.9%) patients who completely recovered after three months. Genital tract infection in 6 (9.8%) patients who resolved after topical treatment and oral antibiotic. Deep infection and compartment syndrome were not present in our series.

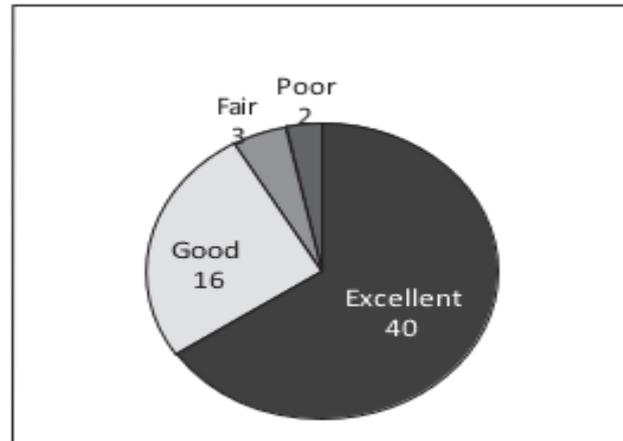


Figure 1: Outcome of Procedure according to Flynn criteria

### DISCUSSION:

In children, supra-condylar fracture of the humerus is a common injury, and the elbow requires appropriate treatment to prevent complications such as elbow stiffness, neurovascular involvement, and compartment syndrome. Narrow reduction and cast are an older method of treatment, but the disadvantage is the loss of reduction, elbow deformation, neurovascular reconciliation caused by large flexion and a set of compartments. It has its drawbacks, such as open reduction and internal fixation, softer tissue trauma, extension of surgery time, extension of hospital stay, and increased elbow postoperative stiffness. Closed reduction and transdermal attachment is the solution to the problem of closed reduction and casting, open reduction and internal fixation. Provides skeleton stability without loss of reduction and minimal soft tissue damage. Demerit is a secondary irradiation procedure (this cannot be done without an image intensifier), pin tract infection, ulnar nerve damage, and sometimes the K wire removal.

The results of our study were comparable to local and international studies. Excellent and good results in our study, with 91.2% Zions, Swenson, Boggione et al., Jong Sup et al. Compared to the Boogione and Shim studies in two of our patients (3.2%), our series achieved poor results with the development of properly ossified myositis and ulceration of varicose veins. Iatrogenic ulnar nerve injury was observed in 3 patients who healed within three months without intervention. In our series, no full nerve cut was observed and can be compared to Gosen. Overall patient satisfaction in terms of functional and cosmetic results was excellent.

### CONCLUSION:

Closed reduction and cross percutaneous pinning for the treatment of type III supracondylar fracture of humerus in children is efficient, safe and cost

effective method. It gives excellent stabilization of the fracture site.

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