Original Resear	Volume - 12   Issue - 03   March - 2022   PRINT ISSN No. 2249 - 555X   DOI : 10.36106/ijar Orthopaedics EVALUATION OF FUNCTIONAL OUTCOME OF MODIFIED TENSION BAND WIRING AT 6 MONTHS IN ISOLATED OLECRANON FRACTURES IN ADULTS
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ABSTRACT Introdu	ction: Fractures of the olecranon account for 8 - 10% of all fractures around the elbow joint. An uncomplicated

fracture of the olecranon is considered to be a common injury. Incidence in adult population is approximately 11.5% per 100000 population<sup>1</sup>. Younger individuals suffer fracture olecranon due to high energy trauma and older individuals due to simple fall<sup>64</sup>. When displaced, open reduction and internal fixation is usually required to obtain anatomical realignment of the articular surface and restore normal elbow function. The fixation should be stable, allow active elbow flexion and extension and promote union of the fracture. There are other modalities of fixation of isolated olecranon fractures, such as olecranon hook plate and cannulated lag screws as well but tension band wiring is less costly and operative complications are less in non comminuted olecranon fractures. **Material and methods:** This prospective observational study was done over a period of 2 years on transverse and oblique fractures of olecranon. **Results:** the outcome of our study was favorable in support of tension band wiring in transverse and oblique fracture of olecranon in respect to union rate, early initiation of physiotherapy and final disease. Because of rigid fixation between the fracture fragments, early active and functional movements can be given to the patient reducing the chances of joint stiffness. Early initiation of physiotherapy program within 2 – 3 weeks induces compression between the fragments. This compression hastens fracture healing. Because of early union of fracture, patient is back to work earlier.

**KEYWORDS**: Olecranon fracture, Modified tension band wiring, Mayo elbow score.

Fractures of the olecranon account for 8 - 10 % of all fractures around the elbow joint. An uncomplicated fracture of the olecranon is considered to be a common injury. Incidence in adult population is approximately 11.5% per 100000 population<sup>1</sup>. Fracture olecranon has a bimodal distribution of incidence. Younger individuals suffer fracture olecranon due to high energy trauma and older individuals due to simple fall<sup>64</sup>.

Before the days of asepsis, the olecranon was immobilised in full extension for 4-6 weeks. But this resulted in stiff elbow in absolutely non functional position. So, later on immobilization in flexion was attempted. In this position non-union become fairly common owing to the wide separation of fractured fragment.

When displaced, open reduction and internal fixation is usually required to obtain anatomical realignment of the articular surface and restore normal elbow function. The fixation should be stable, allow active elbow flexion and extension and promote union of the fracture.<sup>48</sup>

In the past, closed reduction and plaster cast application was the treatment for fracture of olecranon. But prolonged immobilization with its own complications increased the morbidity of patients.<sup>2</sup>

Tension band wiring technique is a method of internal fixation developed by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Fur Osteosynthesefragen group. The basic principle is to counteract the tensile forces that act across the fracture site and convert them into compressive forces .In order to accomplish this, the wire is passed in a figure of eight fashion around the insertion of the triceps tendon and then distally beyond the fracture site into a transverse drill hole on the posterior border of the olecranon. In modified tension band wiring improved alignment and greater stability can be provided by introducing 2 parallel Kirschner wires across the fracture site before applying the tension band (Weber & Vasey 1963.) They serve to neutralize the shearing, translational and torsional forces. The counter pressure of the trochlea under tension by the triceps muscle causes a compression force across the fracture site sufficiently strong to allow immediate active range of motion. Pauwels borrowed (1935) the principle of tension band fixation from mechanics and demonstrated its application in orthopaedics. In order to achieve an increase in inter fragmental compression we must place the wire wherever we have maximal tensile forces, i.e furthest from the load axis<sup>2</sup>. There are other modalities of fixation of isolated olecranon fractures, such as olecranon hook plate and cannulated lag screws as well but tension band wiring is less costly and operative complications are less in non comminuted olecranon fractures.

In our state no study has been done till date on the functional outcome

of tension band wiring in isolated fractures of olecranon, that's why this study was planned.

### MATERIALAND METHODS:

Study design: Prospective study.

Study type: Observational study.

**Study Place:** Department of Orthopaedics, Agartala Government Medical College, Agartala, West, Tripura.

### Study period:

TWO years. Enrolment for 1.5 years and follow-up for 6 months. September 2018 to August 2020

#### Study population:

28 patients with isolated olecranon fractures attended department of Orthopaedics in Agartala Government Medical college and G.B pant Hospital, during the study period who fulfilled our inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Among the 28 patients attending and operated in department of Orthopaedics in AGMC & GBP Hospital. 2 patients were lost during follow-up. Therefore 26 patients were included in this study.

Sampling method: Census sampling by fulfilling inclusion and exclusion criteria.

## INCLUSION CRITERIA: -Patients with isolated fracture of olecranon (>18 years).

## **EXCLUSION CRITERIA:**

- Patients with poly-trauma.
- Patients with open fracture olecranon.
- Patients with Avulsion and comminuted fracture of olecranon.
- Patients not given fitness for anesthesia.
- Patients not willing to participate in the study.

**OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:** The outcome of study will be defined as favorable if MEPI score is more than 60.

#### **METHOD OF COLLECTION OF DATA:**

Collection of data from patients coming with isolated fracture of olecranon to AGMC and GBP hospital for a period of 2 years from as follows:

- History by Verbal communication with patients and their attendants.
- Clinical examination, both local and systemic.
- · Diagnosis: Clinical and Radiological.

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#### • Base line investigations.

- Basic Radiological Examination.
- CT scan in selected cases.
- Pre anesthetic check up.

## **OPERATIVE PROCEDURE:**

- Anaesthesia The operation was performed under general anaesthesia or regional block.
- b) Position and Tourniquet Mid arm tourniquet was applied with patient in lateral position. Site of the surgery was draped after thorough painting with povidine iodine and spirit.
- c) Exposure Exposure of the olecranon was done by Campbell's postero-lateral approach.

**Post-operative care & follow-up:** Following stitch removal patient assessed clinically and was given ROM exercises as per patient's tolerability of pain or discomfort.

Then the patients called up again at 4 -6 week intervals for next three months and then at the end of six months.

# **Clinical assessment for functional outcome:** Mayo elbow performance index.<sup>60</sup>

The functional score is determined on the basis of the patient's ability to perform normal activities of daily living. The total score ranges from 5 to 100 points, with higher scores indicating better function. If the total score is included between 90 and 100 points, it can be considered excellent; between 75 and 89 points, good; between 60 and 74 points, fair, less than 60 point, poor.<sup>60</sup>

## **Mayo Elbow Performance Index:**

Variable	Definition	No. of
		points
PAIN (max., 45 points)	None	45
	Mild	30
	Moderate	15
	Severe	0
RANGE OF MOTION	Arc >100 degrees	20
(max., 20 points)	Arc 50 to 100 degrees	15
	Arc <50 degrees	5
STABILITY (max., 10	Stable	10
points)	Moderately unstable	5
	Grossly unstable	0
FUNCTION (max., 25	Able to comb hair	5
points)	Able to feed oneself	5
. ,	Able to perform personal	
	hygiene tasks	5
	Able to on shirt	5
	Able to put on shoes	5

**DATA COLLECTION:** All the patients attending orthopaedics outdoor and fulfilling inclusion criteria were included in the study and informed consent taken from each patient. Demographic information will be collected. Physical examination ,X-ray of Elbow(AP & lateral) and clinical assessment done during first visit in opd or emergency and after that during every follow up. All the data collected and recorded in a proforma.

**DATA MANAGEMENT:** Data entry and analysis performed in computer using SPSS-20 for windows. Data presented with the help of text, tables, charts etc. chi square test used for qualitative data and t-test used for quantitative data for tests of significance and P< 0.05 considered as significant.

**ETHICAL CONSIDERATION:** Data obtained from this study kept confidential and used for research purpose only. Approval of Institutional Ethical Committee of Agartala Govt Medical College, obtained for this study.

#### RESULTS

28 Patients attended AGMC & GBPH during the period September 2018 to August 2020 with olecranon fracture who got operated with Modified Tension wiring technique. However 2 patients were lost during follow-up, therefore this study includes 26 patients with Olecranon fracture treated by Modified tension band wiring during this period. The analysis of result of different parameters are as follows:

#### 1) Age group distribution

Table-1: Age group distribution of patients					
	Frequency	Percent			
<30	14	53.8			
31-50	6	23.1	_		
>50	6	23.1			
Total	26	100.0			

#### 2) Sex distribution



## Chart 1: Pie Chart of sex distribution of patients.

#### 3) Side of involvement

## Table -2: Side of involvement of patients.

Frequency	Percent	
right	10	38.5
left	16	61.5
Total	26	100.0

4) Mode of injury



### Chart 2 - Mode of injury

#### 5) Age group and mode of injury Cross-tabulation : Table -3: Age group and injury pattern cross tabulation

Age group		mode of inju	Total		
		RTA	FALL	ASSAULT	
	<30	9	4	1	14
	31-50	3	2	1	6
	>50	3	2	1	6
Total		15	8	3	26

6) Colton's classification



#### Chart-3: Fracture type.

#### 7) Time interval from injury to surgery Table -4: Time interval from injury to surgery.

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Time from injury to surgery	3	17	8.62

8)	Associated	fracture	or	soft	tissue	injury	or	systemic	injury
(cl	1art-4)								



18

7

26

Frequency

Percent

69.2

26.9

3.8

100.0

### 14) Physiotherapy initiation time

> 5 weeks

Total

2: Physiotherapy initiation time.

Mean	12.50 cm	Table-12: P
Minimum	10 cm	
Maximum	16 cm	2 - 3 weeks
10) MAYO EL BOW	PERFORMANCE INDEX	3 - 5 weeks

## 10) MAYO ELBOW PERFORMANCE INDEX

## **SECTION-1** Pain intensity.

Table -5: Average incision size.

## **Table-6: Pain Intensity**

Score	Pain Intensity	No. of cases	Percentage
45	None	24	92.3
30	Mild	2	7.7
15	Moderate	-	-
-	Severe	-	-

#### SECTION-2: RANGE OF MOTION. Table -7 :range Of Motion.

Score	Range of motion	No.of cases	Percentage
20	Arc of motion greater than 100	24	92.3
	degrees		
15	Arc of motion between 50 and	2	7.7
	100 degree		
5	Arc of motion less than 50	-	
	degrees		

#### **SECTION-3 Stability.** Table -8: Stability

Score	Stability	No. of cases	Percentage
10	Stable	23	88.5
5	Moderate instability	3	11.5
-	Grossly unstable		

## **SECTION-4: Functional Evaluation.**

## **Table-9: Functional Evaluation**

Score	Function	No. of patients	Percentage
5	Can comb hair	23	88.46
5	Can eat	26	100
5	Can perform hygiene	26	100
5	Can don shirt	23	88.46
5	Can don shoe	26	100

#### 11) MEPI score at 6 months



## Chart 5: MEPI score of patients.

In our study 84.6% (22) patients had excellent outcome, Good score noted in 11.5% (3) patients and in 1 patient fair result achieved. No patient had poor result.

#### 12) Time taken for fracture union Table-10: Time taken for fracture union.

Frequency	Percent	
< 4monthss	22	84.6
4 - 6 months	4	15.4
Total	26	100.0

13) Type of fracture and time taken for fracture union - Cross tabulation.

## Table11: Cross tabulation between type of fracture and union time.

	time taken f union	or fracture	Total	Pearson chi-
	< 4monthss	4 - 6 months	< 4months	square P-
colton's Type I = Un-displaced fracture	3	0	3	Value 0.177
colton's Type II B = Transverse	11	4	15	
colton's Type II B = Oblique	8	0	8	
Total	22	4	26	
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#### **15)** Complications 25 20 15 10 5 no of patients 0 Nil superficial / soft Hardware Torni quet pal sv tissue infections prominence

#### Chart -6: Bar chart of complications

#### Physiotherapy initiation time and final MEPI score at 6 months Cross-tabulation.

rel ate d symptoms

### Table-13: Physiotherapy initiation and final MEPI score crosstabulation.

Physiotherapy	MEPI score at 6 months			Total
initiation				
	Excellent	Good Score	Fair Score	Excellent
	Score 90-100	75-89	60 - 74	Score 90-100
2 - 3 weeks	18	0	0	18
3 - 5 weeks	4	3	0	7
> 5 weeks	0	0	1	1
Total	22	3	1	26

From the above comparison it is seen that patients in whom physiotherapy started early within 2 - 3 weeks (18 patients out of 18 patients - 100%) have achieved excellent MEPI score, whereas only 4 out of 7 patients (57%) achieved excellent result when physiotherapy started at 3 -5 weeks and rest 3 could achieve only good MEPI score. In 1 patient physiotherapy could be started only after 5 weeks due to complications like soft tissue infection and pain and he achieved fair score

## DISCUSSION

In our study 26 cases of fractures of the olecranon were treated with Modified tension band wiring with Kirschner wires for isolated transverse and oblique fractures. Our experience with this method of fixation has given favorable results. The findings, the end results and various other parameters are analyzed here and compared in the following discussion.

#### **1)AGE INCIDENCE:**

The average age incidence; in the present study was found to be 34.77 years. This is well in accordance with the authors Macko Donald and Szabo28 California (1985) Jiang Xieuan46 (2000) is his study average age was 38 years and average age was 35.5 years (15-76 years).

#### 2) Sex Incidence:

	Series	Male	Female
1)	Jiang Xieyan (2000) <sup>46</sup>	10(66.66%)	5 (33.33%)
2)	Hume & Wiss (1992) <sup>33</sup>	30(73.17%)	11(26.82%)
3)	Wolfgang Garry. et al $(1987)^{32}$	27(60%)	18(40%)
4)	Present study	17(68%)	8(32%)

#### 3) Side Incidence:

In this study the involvement of left side [16 patients (61.5%)] was seen more frequent than left side. But according to author Wolfgang G. et al34, study right side is more and Hume and Wiss60 in their study found left side is more involved

#### 4) Mechanism Of Injury:

Series	No.of cases	Percentage
1) Jiang Xieyuan (2000) <sup>46</sup>		
Traffic accident	9	60%
Fall from height	6	40%
2) Wolfgang G., et al (1987) <sup>32</sup>		
• Fall	22	48.88%
Motor vehicle accident	20	44.44%

Direct blow	3	6.66%
3) Present study		
Road traffic accident	8	30.8%
Fall from height	15	57.7%
Assault	3	11.5%

In this study, the patients with Road traffic accident were 13 (52%) patients, with Fall from height were 11 (44%) patients and 1(4%) patient was Assault. Where as according to Jiang Xieyuan series, the patients with traffic accidents were 9(60%) and patients with fall from height were 6 (40%) and according to Wolfgang et al, 22 (48.88%) patients were fall from height 20(44.44%) were due to motor vehicle accident 3 (6.66%) were due to direct blow.

## 5) Type Of Fracture:

Series			No.of cases	Percentage
1) Jiang Xieyuan $(2000)^{46}$				
Oblique fracture			1	6.67
Comminuted fracture			14	93.34
2)	Mu (19	(12000000000000000000000000000000000000		
	•	Transverse fracture	26	57.5%
	•	Oblique fracture	12	26.7%
	•	Comminut ed fracture	7	15.6%
3) Present study				
Transverse fracture			15	57.7%
Oblique fracture			8	30.8%
Avulsion fracture			3	11.5%

In the present series 15 (57.7%) transverse fractures, 8(30.8%) are oblique fractures and 3 (11.5%) Avulsion fractures. In Jiang Xieyvan study 1 (6.67%) oblique fractures and 14 (93.34%) comminuted fractures. In Murphy et al series 26 (57.5%) transverse fracture 12 (26.7%) oblique fractures 7 (15.6%) comminuted fractures.

## 6) Postoperative Complications Or Demerits Of This Procedure:

Complications	Present study	Murphy et al <sup>30</sup>
1. Superficial infection	3 (11.5%)	-
2 Symptomatic metal prominence	2(7.7%)	3 (6 6%)

### 7) RESULTS:

Study	Results in percentage			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
1) Murphy et al <sup>30</sup>	60	10	30	-
2) Jiang Xieyuan <sup>46</sup>	53.33	40	6.66	-
3) Present study	84.6	11.5	3.8	-

The results were evaluated according to the Mayo elbow performance score. The results obtained in our series were excellent in 22 (84.6%) patients, good in 3(11.5%) patients, fair in 1(3.8%) patients and no poor results.

The results in our series is almost accordance with the studies of Murphy et al and Jiang Xieyuan.

#### **Clinical And Operative Pictures**



Pre and Post op X-rays.



## Fig: Range of motion at final follow-up.

### CONCLUSION

From the present study we can conclude that the technique of open reduction and internal fixation with modified tension band wiring for simple transverse and oblique fractures is an effective means and gold standard technique of treating fractures of olecranon and is based on biomechanical principle.

The above technique for fractures of the olecranon has the following distinct advantages, provided the surgery is performed as early as possible, giving due care to all the technical details and a good post op physiotherapy program is followed for range of movement recovery.

- 1) By this method post-operative immobilization in POP is greatly minimized. Thereby avoiding fracture disease.
- Because of rigid fixation between the fracture fragments, early active and functional movements can be given to the patient reducing the chances of joint stiffness.
- Early initiation of physiotherapy programme within 2 3 weeks 3) induces compression between the fragments. This compression hastens fracture healing. Because of early union of fracture, patient is back to work earlier. This aspect is very important both from the psychological and economical point of view. Also as per our findings it helps in good final outcome in regard to functional outcome.

Considering all the distinct advantages modified tension band wiring with Kirschner wires for transverse and oblique fractures is the treatment of choice for fractures of the olecranon as per our study.

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