KEY PROCEDURES

OPEN TREATMENT OF OLECRANON FRACTURES WITH PLATE FIXATION

Julie E. Adams, MD, S. Andrew Sems, MD, Scott P. Steinmann, MD

Published outcomes of this procedure can be found at: *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 1981;63(5):718-21, *J Orthop Trauma.* 2007;21(6):386-93, and *J Orthop Trauma.* 2001;15(8):542-8.

COPYRIGHT © 2018 BY THE
JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT
SURGERY, INCORPORATED

Click the arrow above or go to surgicaltechniques.jbjs.org to view the video article described in this summary.

Abstract

Fractures of the olecranon are sometimes difficult to treat. The steps for operative plate fixation of olecranon fractures consist of (1) a dorsal incision, (2) exposure using full-thickness flaps, (3) removal of hematoma from the fracture site, (4) fracture reduction, (5) provisional fixation, (6) plate application, (7) proximal fixation, (8) distal fixation, and (9) layered wound closure. Although this is generally a straightforward procedure, several specific steps may make fixation easier and improve outcomes.

Outcomes following olecranon fracture fixation are generally good. Patients should expect some loss of terminal extension and a potential for symptoms related to implant prominence, especially in slender patients. Ulnar nerve symptoms are unusual but possible.

Julie E. Adams, MD^{1,2}

S. Andrew Sems, MD¹

Scott P. Steinmann, MD^{1,2}

¹Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

²Mayo Clinic Health System, Austin Minnesota

E-mail address for S.P. Steinmann: steinmann.scott@mayo.edu

ORCID iD for S.P. Steinmann: [0000-0002-2226-4766](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2226-4766)

References

1. Gartsman GM, Sculco TP, Otis JC. Operative treatment of olecranon fractures. Excision or open reduction with internal fixation. *J Bone Joint Surg Am.* 1981 Jun;63(5):718-21.
2. Cabanela M, Morrey B. Fractures of the olecranon. In: Morrey BF, editor. *The elbow and its disorders.* Philadelphia: WB Saunders; 2000. p 365-79.
3. Anderson ML, Larson AN, Merten SM, Steinmann SP. Congruent elbow plate fixation of olecranon fractures. *J Orthop Trauma.* 2007 Jul;21(6):386-93.
4. Bailey CS, MacDermid J, Patterson SD, King GJ. Outcome of plate fixation of olecranon fractures. *J Orthop Trauma.* 2001 Nov;15(8):542-8.

Disclosure: The authors indicated that no external funding was received for any aspect of this work. On the **Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest** forms, which are provided with the online version of the article, one or more of the authors checked "yes" to indicate that the author had a relevant financial relationship in the biomedical arena outside the submitted work and "yes" to indicate that the author had a patent and/or copyright, planned, pending, or issued, broadly relevant to this work (<http://links.lww.com/JBJSST/A199>).