Transcaphoid Perilunate Fracture/Dislocations—Results of Surgical Treatment

H T Hee,* MBBS, FRCS (Edin), FRCS (Glas), H P Wong,** FAMS, MBBS, M Med (Surg), Y P Low,*** FAMS, MBBS, FRCS (Edin)

Abstract

Sixteen cases of dorsal transcaphoid perilunate fracture/dislocations in 15 patients were treated by open reduction and internal fixation of the scaphoid with a Herbert screw and/or Kirschner wires. All patients were male, with a mean age of 31 years. The average follow-up period was 3 years. These perilunate dislocations were transcaphoid in 13 cases, and transstyloid and transcaphoid in 3 cases. There was one case of median nerve deficit preoperatively. Open reduction was performed through a volar approach in all cases. Herbert screw fixation of the scaphoid was performed on 13 cases, of which supplemental Kirschner wires were used in 2 cases. Three cases had fixation with Kirschner wires only. There were 2 cases of non-union which required bone grafting on follow-up. A clinical evaluation scoring system assessing pain, occupational ability, range of motion and grip strength was used. Based on this, there were 10 excellent to good (62.5%) and 6 fair results. For the majority of our patients, surgical outcome is characterised by acceptable relief of pain, functional motion and grip strength.

Key words: Cooney’s criteria, Herbert screw, Kirschner wires, Scaphoid fracture, Volar approach

Ann Acad Med Singapore 1999; 28:791-4

* Registrar
** Senior Consultant and Chief Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
*** Senior Consultant and Chief Department of Accident and Emergency Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Address for Reprints: Dr Hee Hwan Tak, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, 11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng, Singapore 308433.