Table 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author, date, and country</th>
<th>Patient group</th>
<th>Study type (level of evidence)</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<td>Brown et al, 1973, Australia</td>
<td>4 children 18 months–3 years</td>
<td>Case reports</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>Normalised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown et al, 1976, Australia</td>
<td>12 children 15 months–12 years with arrhythmias</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>9/12 reverted to sinus rhythm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koppel et al, 1992, Germany</td>
<td>184 cases of overdose</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>4/8 reverted to sinus rhythm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoffman et al, 1993, USA</td>
<td>91 patients with overdose</td>
<td>Observational</td>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>39/49 improved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Clinical bottom line

On current best evidence alkalisation to a pH of 7.55 appears to be appropriate treatment for patients with dysrhythmias after tricyclic overdose.

Collar and cuff or sling after fracture of the clavicle

Report by Simon Carley, Clinical Fellow

Search checked by Kevin Mackway-Jones, Consultant

Clinical scenario

A 23 year old male presents to the emergency department after a fall on the outstretched hand. Radiography reveals a mid-clavicular fracture. You know that a figure of eight bandage is of no benefit but are unsure whether a sling or a collar and cuff gives the best outcome.

Three part question

In [young patients with simple clavicle fractures] is [collar and cuff better than broad arm sling] at [reducing pain and reducing time to recovery]?

Search strategy

Medline 1966 to 12/98 using the OVID interface. (exp immobilization OR exp bandages OR collar and cuff.mp OR broad arm sling$$.mp) AND ([exp clavicle OR clavicle$.mp OR clavicular.mp] AND [exp fractures OR fracture$.mp])) LIMIT to human AND English language.

Search outcome

Twenty papers were found none of which were relevant.

Comment

There is no literature on the use of collar and cuff or sling in simple clavicular fracture.

Curettage or silver nitrate for pyogenic granulomas on the hand

Report by Wendy Dollery, Specialist Registrar

Search checked by Vince Choudrey, Clinical Fellow

Clinical scenario

A 23 year old woman attends the emergency department with a strange growth on the end of her finger. She cut herself on glass some six weeks previously. Examination reveals a lesion with the appearance of a pyogenic granuloma. You wonder whether you should remove the lump surgically or chemically.

Three part question

In [an adult with a pyogenic granuloma on the hand] is [curettage better than cautery with silver nitrate] at [removing the lesion and preventing recurrence]?

Search strategy

Medline 1966 to 12/98 using the OVID interface. [exp granuloma OR granulomas$.mp OR granuloma, pyogenic OR granuloma, pyogenic.mp OR exp hemangioma, capillary OR capillary hemangioma$.mp] AND [exp hand OR exp thumb OR exp fingers OR hand$.mp OR thumb.mp OR finger$.mp OR digit$.mp].
Search outcome
Forty five papers were found none of which were relevant.

Comment
There is no literature on the simple management of pyogenic granulomas of the hand. A multicentre trial of treatments for this condition is warranted.

Clinical bottom line
There is no evidence to determine whether curettage or cautery with silver nitrate is a better treatment for simple pyogenic granuloma of the hand. Local advice should be followed.

Support for uncomplicated shaft of humerus fractures
Report by Katrina Herren, Research Fellow
Search checked by Simon Carley, Clinical Fellow

Clinical scenario
A 45 year old man attends emergency department having fallen off his bicycle. He has pain around his left upper arm. Examination reveals a probable fracture of the humerus and radiography confirms this. There are no neurovascular complications. You have received differing advice about the best way to support the arm after this injury. You wonder whether a broad arm sling or collar and cuff is best.

Three part question
In [adults with uncomplicated shaft of humerus fracture] is [collar and cuff better than broad arm sling] at [reducing pain and non-union]?

Search strategy
Medline 1966 to 12/98 using the OVID interface. [exp immobilization OR exp bandages OR collar and cuff.mp OR broad arm sling$.mp] AND ([exp humerus OR humerus.mp OR humeral.mp] AND [exp fractures OR fracture$.mp]) OR exp humeral fractures) LIMIT to human AND english language.

Search outcome
Forty five papers were found none of which were relevant.

Comment
There is no literature on the use of a collar and cuff or a sling in uncomplicated shaft of humerus injury.

Clinical bottom line
There is no evidence to determine if a collar and cuff is better than a sling for management of uncomplicated fractures of the shaft of humerus. Local advice should be followed.
Towards evidence based emergency medicine: best BETs from the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Curettage or silver nitrate for pyogenic granulomas on the hand.

W Dollery

*J Accid Emerg Med* 1999 16: 140-141
doi: 10.1136/emj.16.2.140-a

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