

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

Manuscript NO: 82911

Title: LOCKING PLATES FOR DISTAL FIBULA FRACTURES IN YOUNG AND ELDERLY PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06277476

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor, FASN, FRCPA, MD, MSc, PharmD

Professional title: Chief Technician, Research Assistant, Superintendent, Technician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-29

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-03 00:03

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-09 07:19

Review time: 6 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study has certain clinical value, but there are still some doubts. 1. In the result part of the text of the manuscript, the age of the first group and the second group is ≥ 65 years old, and there may be description errors. In addition, the dividing age between the elderly and the young is 65 years old, but generally speaking, most studies use 60 years old. 2. In the conclusion part of the manuscript, it is mentioned that "Although in literature the locking plate has been associated with delayed union or non-union, we did not observe it our study". I think this sentence should be modified because the observation time of some patients in the manuscript is not very long, and the overall included samples are also limited. 3. Are there any differences in scores between genders?

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02623966

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Doctor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-29

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-01 16:44

Reviewer performed review: 2023-03-01 16:44

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a well-design study adding new information to the literature. According to my knowledge, it is a novel paper in its field opening new horizons for further evidence. Authors, succeed to present their findings in a clear way. In addition, the object as well as the results are appropriately discussed in the context of previous literature explaining the importance of the manuscript in its field. Authors succeed to present their data in a clear way adding information to the existing literature. Therefore, I have no corrections or further work to propose for the improvement of the manuscript and therefore it can be published unaltered.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03815857

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc

Professional title: Senior Researcher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-29

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-02-27 07:43

Reviewer performed review: 2023-03-04 13:49

Review time: 5 Days and 6 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear authors, In this paper, you sought to assess the outcomes following locking plate fixation of lateral malleolar fractures. Please find my comments below. Introduction section: In this section, you have not made any mention on the primary vs secondary stability concepts which are fundamental when it comes to selecting different modes of fracture fixation. On top of that, language use should be improved given you've mentioned the word 'ankle' multiple times in the first paragraph of the paper. What is more, connection words are missing so you facilitate reading of the manuscript. In the methods section, you have not described your statistics precisely. For example, normality tests / data distribution has not been commented on. Last but not least, discussion section needs to be better organised. For instance, the first paragraph of it is too lengthy and I believe it's not helpful for the readers.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Professional title: Chief Technician, Research Assistant, Superintendent, Technician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-12-29

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-17 06:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-18 00:57

Review time: 18 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The problem has been resolved.