

Dear Jin-Xin Kong
Science Editor
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27th June 2017

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (File name: 33250-revised.docx)

Title: Managing extremely distal periprosthetic femoral supracondylar fractures of total knee replacements – A new PHILOSophy

Authors: K Donnelly, A Tucker, A Ruiz, N Thompson

Name of Journal: World Journal of Orthopaedics

Manuscript No: 33250

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers by the following:

Comments of reveiwer (ID: 02705018):

I believe this manuscript presents a novel technique for the management of periprosthetic supracondylar femoral fractures which deserves attention fro yhe orthopaedic community in order to be fairly judged. For this reason I propose publication.

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Comments of reveiwer (ID: 02691156):

he submitted manuscript, entitled "Managing Extremely Distal Periprosthetic Femoral Supracondylar Fractures of Total Knee Replacements – A New PHILOSophy", represents a report of two cases with a proximal humeral locking plate. The title is referring directly to the problem at hand and the abstract is short but adequate. Core Tip: Focus to the fixation problems. Key words: are missing. Introduction is clear and the authors focus on the treatment methods and the most suitable available material for fixation. Materials and Methods; in this chapter are included: CASE REPORT, authors report a short sufficient case history of the two patients, followed by Operative techniques and then Outcomes (Results) Discussion; is clear, adequate and covers the various aspects of the treatment of femoral periprosthetic type III fractures, where the fracture line is distal to the anterior flange of the femoral component. The authors stated that "The major benefit we found of using the PHILOS was the design of the plate, which allowed the placement of a maximum of nine polyaxial divergent screws over a small area. This allowed us to maximise our fixation in the distal fragment." Conclusions: is missing; instead of conclusions, there is a final paragraph in the end of discussion, which in my opinion, could represent the authors final conclusion "We have shown that a PHILOS can be considered as a viable treatment option for very distal

Type III fracture patterns with good short-term results in low demand patients. Each case highlights the need for careful consideration of the fracture configuration to allow the treating surgeon to select an appropriate means of fixation." References are including 16 published papers. The present manuscript, in the submitted form, slightly diverge from the structure used in WJO, needs to be organized in a better way, according to the instructions of WJO, before been accepted for publication.

Response:

Structure has been extensive changed in order to have the manuscript conform to WJO preparation guidelines. Key words are now included. Formal conclusion subsection is now included. Minor grammatical and spelling changes have been performed.

Comments of reveiwer (ID: 02699758):

The authors demonstrated plate fixation using PHILOS plate, which is usually applied to proximal humeral fracture, for distal periprosthetic femoral supracondylar fracture after TKA in two patients. The idea for using PHILOS plate is very unique. However, strength of the plate for lower leg is questionable. Patients should be followed at least 1 year or until bone union is completed. I do not recommend this manuscript to be published because of short term follow-up. More follow-up period should be necessary to demonstrate the utility of PHILOS plate for supracondylar fracture after TKA.

Response:

Longer follow up has been performed and included accordingly.

Comments of reveiwer (ID: 02444740):

This is a nice paper , only few corrections are needed. Longer follow-up of the second case is needed with evidence for a complete healing

Response:

Longer follow up has been performed and included accordingly.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to revise the manuscript with a view to publication in the World Journal of Orthopaedics

Kind Regards,

The Authors