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USO DE ÓRTESIS DE SCHENCK EN FRACTURAS CON COMPROMISO INTRAARTICULAR .10 AÑOS DE SEGUIMIENTO.

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Schenck's orthosis in hand's fractures with joint injury after 10 years of follow up

Since 1996 at the Hospital del Trabajador, in Santiago, it has been used the Schenck's splint in phalange fracture with joint injury treatment, which was introduced by Alberto Perez (MD).

The phalange fracture with joint injury is challenging for hand's orthopaedic surgeon because of consequences in the joint function. The dynamic traction splinting is an alternative treatment mainly provided by occupational therapist whose must be trained on it.

The objective of this study is to describe the results in those patients who were treated in 1996 with dynamic traction splinting after 10 years of following up.

There were seven patients, a woman and 6 men and 35 years old in average. The compromised joints were 6 proximal interphalangeic and 1 metacarpo-phalangeic joint. The orthosis was used for 4.8 weeks in average. The results at the moment of discharge from the hospital were an acceptable joint movement (Extension deficit: 0-30° and Flexion deficit: 75°-105°). One patient had arthrodesis of the hand due to severe damage.

The patients were asked to visit an orthopaedic surgeon and an occupational therapist that performed goniometrics and dinamometric measurements and evaluated hands Rx. The observed outcomes were: good joint mobility, absence of pain and normal muscular strength.

Conclusions:

Our results validate the dynamic traction splinting as first choice treatment in patients with hand's phalange fracture with joint injury. Furthermore, the study validates the role of occupational therapist both in treatment and rehabilitation process of this kind of fracture