Letter to the Editor

Response to “Tension Band Wiring” a Simplified Approach for Fracture Reduction and Intermittent Stabilization by Degala S and Gupta N

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Recently, I read an article titled “Tension Band Wiring” a simplified approach for fracture reduction and intermittent stabilization by Degala S and Gupta N [1]. The authors have mentioned that they have applied this method to treat 80 patients, but they have not mentioned some important details about the fracture like degree of displacement of the fractured segments, simple or comminuted, as these are necessary to apply this method of tension band wiring. As per the above said facts, difficulties that arises with this method are:

- a) In case of displaced fractures, it is very difficult to control the anteroposterior and also superoinferior movement of the fractured segments during reduction, as the arch bar is loosely fixed and the length of the screw available to place wire loop is only 2 mm.
- b) 2×8 mm screws are not rigid enough in case of displaced fractures and also in some areas like angle and symphysis fractures.
- c) While placing the second plate by removing the tension band, maintenance of the reduction achieved by the arch bar is not reliable, because of the distortion caused, while tightening the arch bar itself.

In order to overcome these difficulties, this method can be modified as follows,

- a) Instead of keeping the arch bar loose, we can apply split arch bar which is more reliable.

- b) Screw size can also be varied to achieve good traction, based on the site of the fracture.
- c) In cases where the teeth on either side of the fracture line are firm, we can use these teeth for tension banding by figure of eight wiring which is a regular protocol.

Based on these facts, I would like to mention some indications to this method.

- a) If teeth on either side of the fracture line are absent or periodontally compromised.
- b) In minimally displaced fractures.

Otherwise, this method is simple and can be applied routinely for mandibular fractures with minimal displacement.

Conflict of Interest None.

Reference

1. Degala S, Gupta N (2011) “Tension Band Wiring” a simplified approach for fracture reduction and intermittent stabilization. J Maxillofac Oral Surg 9(4):382–384

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