iMedPub Journals www.imedpub.com

2021

ISSN 2471-8416

Vol.7 No.6:8862

Remarkable Outcome of a 11 year old Non-union Lateral Condyle Fracture of Humerus with Cubitus Valgus Deformity and Tardy Ulnar Nerve Palsy

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Received date: June 09, 2021; Accepted date: October 19, 2021; Published date: October 29, 2021

Citation: Tonda A (2021) Remarkable Outcome of a 11 year old Non-union Lateral Condyle Fracture of Humerus with Cubitus Valgus Deformity and Tardy Ulnar Nerve Palsy. J Clin Exp Orthop Vol. 7 No: 6.

Introduction

Fractures of lateral condyle comprise almost 18% of all distal end humerus fractures in children, usually with delayed presentation. Tardy ulnar nerve palsy may occur as a consequence of non-union of lateral condyle resulting in cubitus-valgus (gun stock deformity) [1-4].

Case-report

A 16 year old boy complains of deformity over left elbow since 11 years exaggerated since 1 year with tingling and numbness radiating to 4th-5th digits.

Father gives h/o injury to left elbow at age of 5 years due to fall, taken to native-osteopaths and subjected to massagesbandages, with pain and restricted movements still persisting he neglected the deformity condition by reducing activity and occasionally taking analgesics [5-8].

Radiograph shows Milch type II non-union fracture at lateral condyle of humerus with cubitus-valgus deformity.

Discussion

After thorough examination of topography, deformity was corrected with closed medial wedge osteotomy and plating by posterior approach with anterior transposition of ulnar nerve.

Post-operatively left elbow was immobilized for 3 weeks after which movements were encouraged. With persistent motivation and supervised physiotherapy, he regained complete range of movements, ulnar neuropathy resolved progressively and performed daily activities independently.

Conclusion

Management of established non-union of lateral humeral condyle is controversial as osteosynthesis reduces movements or bony non union may occur. However corrective wedge osteotomy along medial cortex and transpositioning of ulnar nerve resolves deformity by correcting carrying angle and prevent further neuropathy. Hence meticulous planning and adequate fixation would improve the performance of elbow joint and prevent neurogenic deficits [9,10].

Figure 1







Figure 3

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Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



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