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Hospital and Trauma Center

# Proximal Humerus Fractures: Techniques to Improve Fixation Stability

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# Background

- 6% of all fractures in adults
- 3<sup>rd</sup> most common osteoporotic fracture population
- Optimal management is highly debated and controversial



# Nonoperative

Surgical vs Nonsurgical Treatment of Adults  
With Displaced Fractures of the Proximal Humerus  
The PROFHER Randomized Clinical Trial

Proximal humeral fractures: non-operative treatment versus intramedullary nailing  
in 2-, 3- and 4-part fractures

Surgical Treatment With an Angular Stable Plate for  
Complex Displaced Proximal Humeral Fractures in Elderly  
Patients: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Nonoperative management versus reverse shoulder  
arthroplasty for treatment of 3- and 4-part  
proximal humeral fractures in older adults

Operative vs. nonoperative treatment for comminuted  
proximal humeral fractures in elderly patients:  
a current meta-analysis



# Shoulder Arthroplasty



Reverse shoulder arthroplasty for treatment of proximal  
humeral fractures in older adults: a systematic review



Reverse shoulder arthroplasty for the  
treatment of three- and four-part fractures of  
the proximal humerus in the elderly

A PROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF 43 CASES WITH A SHORT-TERM  
FOLLOW-UP

Reverse total shoulder arthroplasty for acute proximal  
humeral fracture: comparison to open reduction–internal  
fixation and hemiarthroplasty

Reverse shoulder arthroplasty for the treatment  
of three-part and four-part proximal humeral  
fractures in the elderly



[elsevier.com/locate/jsems](http://elsevier.com/locate/jsems)

# Who should we be offering surgery to?

- Displaced 2-part fractures\*
- 3-4 part fractures in high demand patients
- Fracture-dislocations
- Open fractures



\* Prediction of Nonunion After Nonoperative Treatment of a Proximal Humeral Fracture

Ewan B. Goudie, FRCSEd(Tr&Orth), and C. Michael Robinson, FRCSEd(Orth)

>50% shaft translation + head-shaft angle  $\leq 90^\circ$   $\rightarrow \uparrow$  risk nonunion

# Who should we be fixing?

- Displaced 2-part fractures\*
- 3-part fractures in high demand patients with large GT and head fragment
  - Deltoid tuberosity index (DTI) > 1.4
- Open fractures



# Tips for Improved Fixation Stability

- Reduction goals
  - No varus!
  - Medial calcar support
- Augments
  - Bone graft
  - Calcium phosphate
- Implant position
  - Calcar screw placement
  - Plate position
- Cuff Management

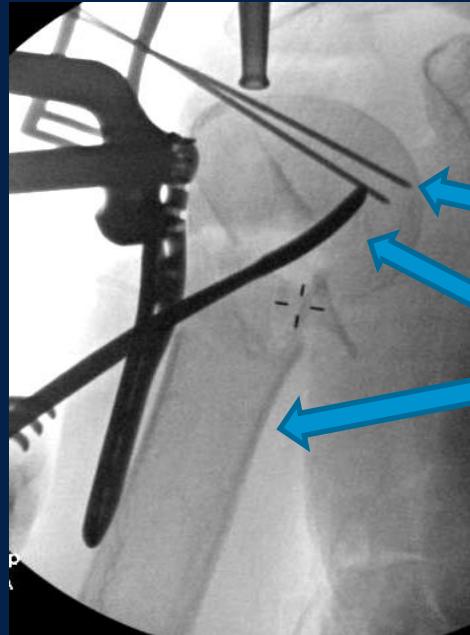


# Reduction- Valgus pattern



Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Reduction – Varus pattern



1. K-wire joysticks
2. Cuff sutures
3. Elevator
4. Arm abduction

Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Reduction – Medial Calcar Support

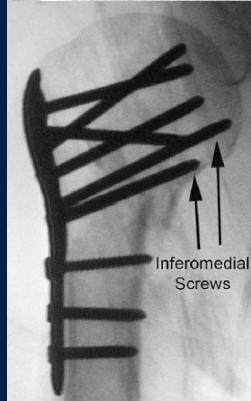
- Anatomic reduction of medial cortex
- Bony apposition
- Position of inferomedial calcar screws

Defining optimal calcar screw positioning in proximal humerus fracture fixation



Eric M. Padegimas, MD<sup>a</sup>, Benjamin Zmistowski, MD<sup>a</sup>, Cassandra Lawrence, MD<sup>b</sup>,  
Aaron Palmquist, BA<sup>c</sup>, Thema A. Nicholson, MS<sup>d</sup>, Surena Namdari, MD, MSc<sup>d,\*</sup>

- Screw distance < 12mm or within bottom 25% of humeral head prevents fixation failures

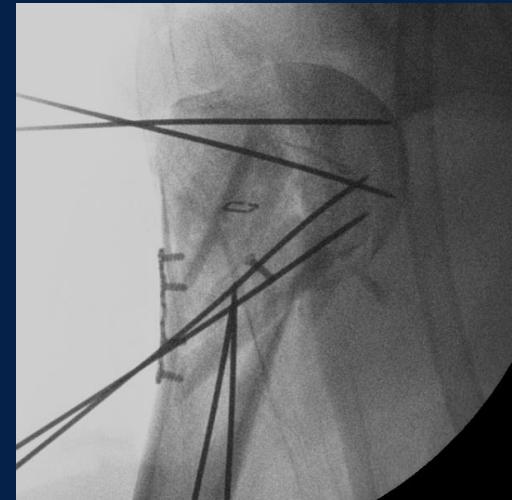


# Augmentation Options

CaPO<sub>4</sub> Cement

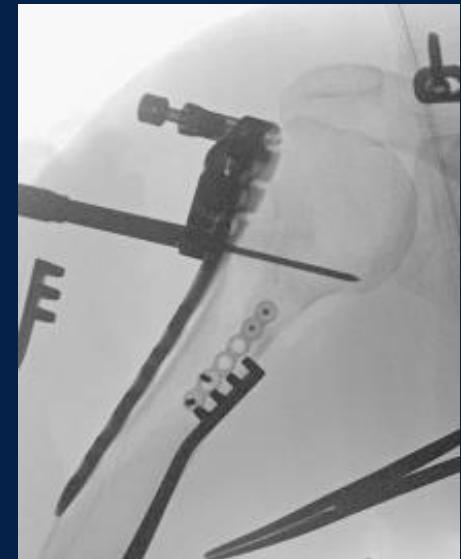


Bone Graft



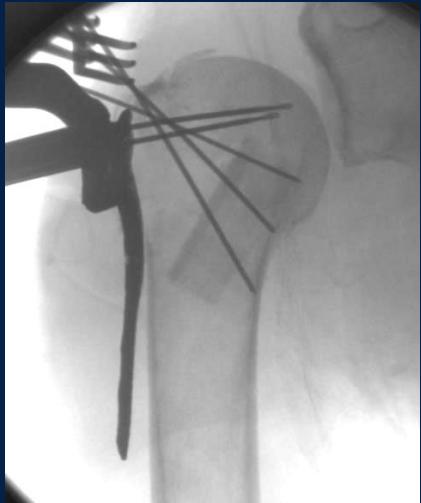
Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Augmentation – Iliac Crest



Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Augmentation – Fibular strut



- Prevent varus collapse
- Provide medial support
- Prevent valgus collapse
- Fill lateral bone void

Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Augmentation – Fibular strut

**Improved outcomes for proximal humerus fracture open reduction internal fixation augmented with a fibular allograft in elderly patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis**



Suhas P. Dasari, MD\*, Benjamin Kerzner, BS, Luc M. Fortier, BA, Parker M. Rea, BS, Blake M. Bodendorfer, MD, Jorge Chahla, MD, PhD, Grant E. Garrigues, MD, Nikhil N. Verma, MD

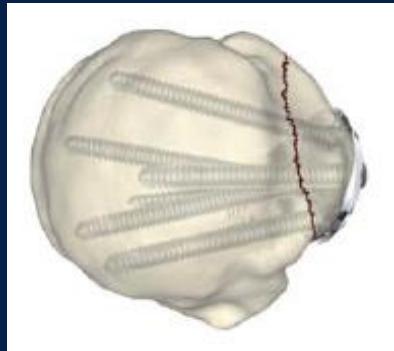
- 10 studies, 802 patients
- Locked plating vs locked plating with fibular allograft
- Fibular allograft group had better radiographic outcomes, ASES scores, and lower rates of major complications
- No differences in rates of revision surgery

# Plate Position - Coronal plane



Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

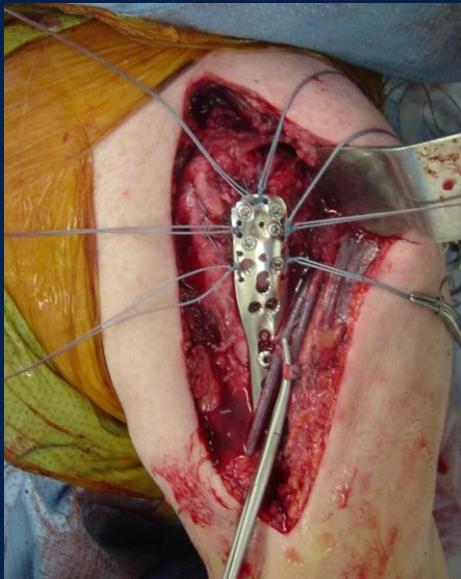
# Plate Position - Transverse plane



Courtesy of Dr. Utku Kandemir

# Cuff Management

Tuberosity nonunion/malunion or “escape” → poor outcomes



Sutures



Tuberosity Based Plate

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# Thank you



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