

A Tale Of Two Toes: Neglected Cutaneous Syndactyly Complicated With Non-Union

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INTRODUCTION:

Syndactyly of the foot is a common congenital abnormality which may involve fusion of the soft tissues with or without bony fusion⁽¹⁾

CASE REPORT:

We present a 21year old healthy male who has congenital cutaneous syndactyly with continuity over the anterior and posterior axis of the two digits over the right 2nd and 3rd toe.

He sustained an open fracture of the proximal phalanx of right 3rd Toe following a motor vehicle accident.

Initial surgery was done addressing the open fracture with no primary release of the cutaneous syndactyly. Post operatively the patient was discharged and reviewed in our clinic monthly. However, 6 months post operatively, his x-rays still showed both ends of the proximal phalanx sclerotic with absence of callous formation and was clinically mobile. The patient was then treated as Atrophic non-union of the proximal phalanx of the right 3rd Toe. A 2nd surgery was planned for Z Plasty over the 2nd and 3rd right Toes with full thickness skin graft. and Open Reduction and K Wiring over the right 3rd proximal phalanx. Intra operatively the sclerotic edges were removed together with the surrounding fibrous tissue. An axial K-Wire was used to stabilize the fracture site. There were no complications and during the follow – up 2 months later, there was radiological evidence of fracture union.

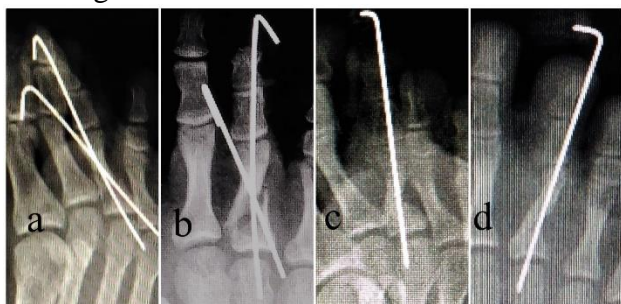


Figure 1: a and b prior to release, c and d post release of syndactyly.



Figure 2: Post Second Surgery

DISCUSSIONS:

Cutaneous syndactyly requires release if there is involvement of a phalanx fracture as the adjacent phalanx will cause distraction leading to nonunion.

CONCLUSION:

We conclude more cases of such nature should be studied in order for us to understand the implication of this type of injury.

REFERENCES:

1. Biesecker LG, Aase JM, Clericuzio C, Gurrieri F, Temple IK, et al. (2009) Elements of morphology: standard terminology for the hands and feet. *Am J Med Genet A* 149A: 93-127.