

Ac Joint Fixation Failure With Coracoid Fracture

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INTRODUCTION:

Various surgical treatments have been described for acromioclavicular joint (ACJ) dislocations. With the relatively new introduction of TightRope fixation, new complications had arisen such as coracoid and clavicle fracture. There are very few reported cases of coracoid fracture following tight rope fixation and is not discussed in literature. The optimal treatment for loss of ACJ reduction following coracoid fracture after Tight rope fixation remains unknown. Good outcome had been reported with both conservative and surgical treatments. This case report describes the successful operative treatment of a secondary coracoid fracture following anatomic ACJ reconstruction with Tight Rope suture-button.

REPORT:

A 26-year-old lady underwent Tight rope fixation after sustaining a Rockwood Grade V left acromioclavicular joint (ACJ) dislocation following a motor vehicle accident. Unfortunately, she fractured her left coracoid with loss of ACJ reduction after a fall on her left shoulder 2 weeks after the surgery. She presented with severe generalized pain over her left shoulder with reduced range of motions. A trial of conservative treatment failed and surgery was offered in view of the persistent symptoms. Patient underwent removal of implant and revision surgery of ACJ with clavicle hook plate at 7 months post primary ACJ fixation. At 6 weeks post-surgery, pain over left shoulder was reduced significantly with full range of active and passive motion. The coracoid fracture in this case was not fixed surgically. Ogawa et al reported no differences between surgical or conservative treatment of coracoid fracture with 87% having excellent outcome.¹ However, non-operative treatment of coracoid fractures may fail in certain cases and predispose patient to risk of coracohumeral impingement, or disruption of the coracoid muscular attachments.

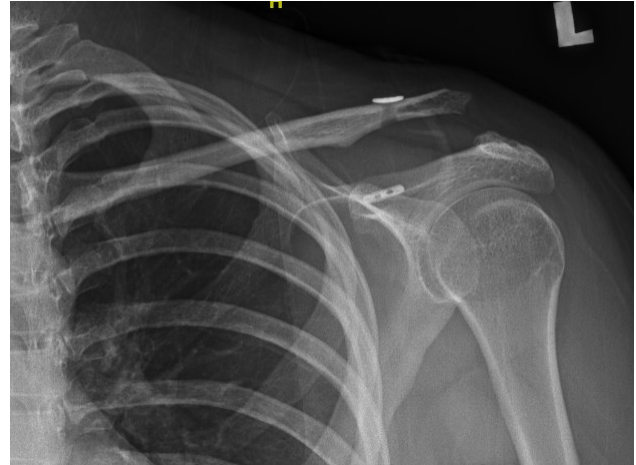


Figure 1. Plain radiograph of left shoulder (AP view) demonstrating coracoid fracture with displaced ACJ after a fall onto the shoulder.

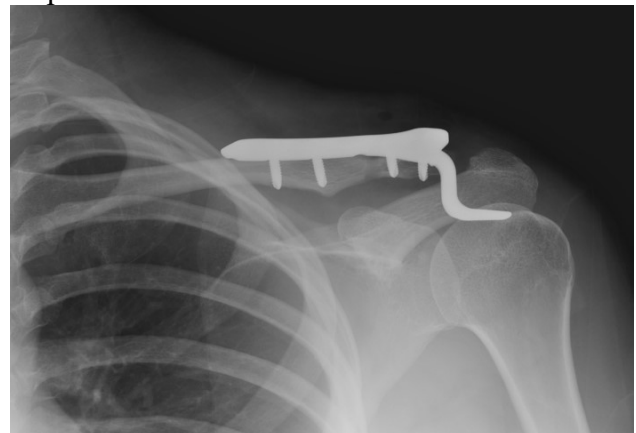


Figure 2. Postoperative (clavicle hook plate) plain radiograph of left shoulder (AP view).

CONCLUSION:

The lack of coracoid fracture fixation in ACJ revision surgery does not appear to affect the outcome negatively. Longer follow up is necessary to detect any functional deficits in the long term.

REFERENCES:

1. Ogawa K, Yoshida A, Takahashi M, Ui M. Fractures of the coracoid process. *J Bone Joint Surg Br.* 1997 Jan;79(1):17-9.