

# Ipsilateral Floating Shoulder And Elbow: A Case Report

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## INTRODUCTION:

Floating shoulder is 'double disruption' of superior shoulder suspensory complex whereas floating elbow is ipsilateral fracture of humerus and forearm. In this case report, we presents an ipsilateral floating shoulder and elbow following alleged motorvehicle accident. This case is rarity because of such severe, unstable injury involving two main joints in the same limb and should be managed properly to prevent complications.

## CASE REPORT:

An eighteen years old male presented to us after an alleged motorbike skidded; sustained pain and deformity over right upper limb. X-ray revealed; fracture of neck of scapula, acromion process, midshaft of humerus, radius and ulna on the right upper limb (Figure 1). He was stabilized then admitted to our ward with U-slab & arm sling. We proceed with reconstuction plate of right scapula, dynamic compression plate of right humerus, radius & ulna (figure2) . He was discharged well on fourth day post operation.



Figure1

## DISCUSSION:

According to Simpson and Weber, floating shoulder results in functional difficulty, hence surgical intervention needs to be considered for all cases.<sup>1</sup> A retrospective study of 46 cases of floating shoulder by A. Van Noort et al. concluded that, conservative treatment gives a good functional outcome.<sup>2</sup> However Egol et al.



Figure 2

studied 19 patients revealed that there is no significant difference of functional result in surgery and conservative. Treatment must be individualized for each patient.<sup>3</sup>

Rogers et al.<sup>4</sup> presented 19 patients of floating elbow concluded that (ORIF) did significantly better than those treated conservatively. This was confirmed 1 year later by Lange and Foster<sup>5</sup> reported satisfactory anatomic and functional results were achieved only by rigid internal fixation. Nonoperative management is associated with a significant risk of malunion or nonunion.

## CONCLUSION:

Ipsilateral floating shoulder and elbow is rare severe injury that needs individualized treatment, surgery must be considered in all cases.

## REFERENCES:

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