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An unclassified tibial plateau fracture: reverse Schatzker type IV

Tien Yeoh, Efthymios Iliopoulos, Alex Trompeter

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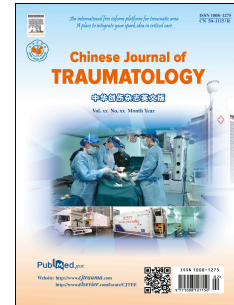
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Case Report

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An unclassified tibial plateau fracture: reverse Schatzker type IV

Tien Yeoh, Efthymios Iliopoulos*, Alex Trompeter

St George's University Hospital, NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author. Email address: iliopoulose@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The most commonly accepted system of classification for tibia plateau fractures is that of Schatzker. Increasingly, both high energy injuries and atypical osteoporotic fragility failures have led to more complex, unusual and previously undescribed fracture patterns being recognized. We present a case of a patient with a previously unreported pattern of tibia plateau fracture and knee dislocation. We highlight the challenges confronted and present the management and the outcomes of his injury. A 28-year old male motorcyclist was involved in a head on collision with a truck and was transferred by helicopter to our level 1 major trauma centre emergency department. His injuries were a circumferential degloving injury to his left leg and a right lateral tibial plateau fracture / knee dislocation. The pattern of the lateral tibial plateau fracture was unique and did not fit any recognised classification system. The patient received a spanning external fixator initially and after latency of 12 days for soft tissue resuscitation he underwent definite fixation through an antero-lateral approach to the proximal tibia with two cannulated 6.5 mm partially threaded screws and an additional lateral

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