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## Comparative study between intermaxillary fixation (IMF) and pure conservation in management of condylar head fracture in children

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**Background:** The purpose of the present study was to compare intermaxillary fixation (IMF) and pure conservation in the management of condylar head fracture in children treated at the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University, Egypt, from 2011-2016.

**Methods:** 24 patients with condylar head fractures were included in this study; 10 males and 14 females in between the ages ranging from 5-15 years. They were divided into two equal groups Patients in group 1, were treated by closed reduction for 2-3 weeks followed by physiotherapy, while group 2 patients were managed by pure conservation only for the same period. Outcome results on clinical and radiological parameters were evaluated during the follow up period.

**Results:** In group 1, the maximum mouth opening after 2 months ranged from 28-36 mm (average 32 mm), while development of ankylosis were reported in 3 patients. In group 2, the maximum interincisal opening ranged from 28-37 mm (average 32.5 mm) with absence of ankylosis. Pain in temporomandibular joint (TMJ) was noted in 3 cases of bilateral condylar head fractures of this group, but subsided gradually during the follow up.

**Conclusions:** This study concluded that treatment of patients by closed reduction gives satisfactory clinical results, though the condyle is not anatomically normal in radiographs, whereas management of patients by pure conservation without any surgical intervention showed excellent results clinically as well as radiographically. Perhaps a study conducted on larger number of patients with longer post operative follow up will throw more light on this subject.

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