

Principles of Open Fractures



Definition of Open Fracture



The fracture and the fracture hematoma

communicate with the external environment

through a traumatic defect

in the surrounding soft tissues and overlying skin.

Open Pelvic (Lethal) Fracture





Direct communication between
the fracture or fracture hematoma,
with the external environment
through the rectum, vagina or skin.

Open fracture dislocation of the spine

Spine: a case report. 2007;7(4):491-4.

- An open fracture dislocation of T8 on T9.
- Irrigation / Debridement / Open Reduction
- / Stabilization / Primary Wound Closure.
- Two years after surgery,
 - Solid fusion with no evidence of infection.



War and Surgery

The impact of war has always helped

in development of many scientific domains including

medicine in general

and

surgery in particular.



First Aid in Battlefield in World War I



Aid Station and Ambulance in World War I

Harold Teshren in 1983



Grouped the development of open fractures into four eras.

Life Preservation

Limb Preservation.

Infection Prevention.

Functional Restoration.

Now we are in the "Era of Functional Restoration " with Following Strategy:

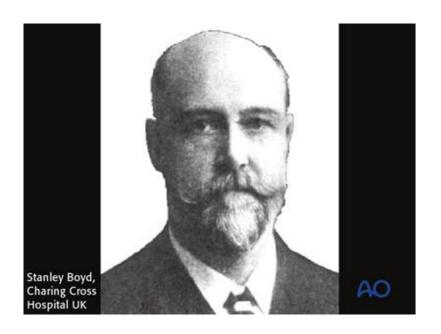
- On time and Optimal, wound debridement.
- Early suitable, fracture stabilization.
- Early wound closure or cover, to achieve bone and soft tissue healing as soon as possible, with co operation of "orthopedic/plastic surgeon"

"Orthoplastic approach ".

The Future will Focus on:

- Identifying and understanding factors, that affect healing of bone and soft tissues, at the molecular and genetic level, so that the treatment can be tailored to each patient.
- The development of safe protocols for reconstruction, that will facilitate better function and cosmetic in the shortest possible period of time.

Stanley Boyd in 1895 said:



Divisions of fractures to

simple, compound and complicated,

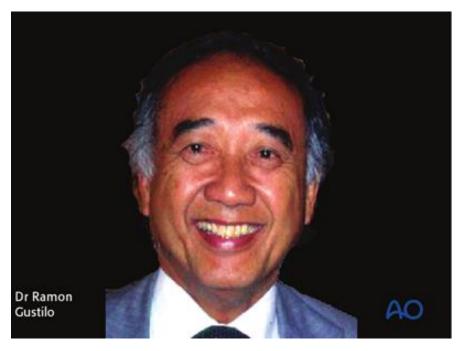
are importantly based upon

the condition of the soft parts.

- The status of the soft-tissue wounding in open fractures is a crucial determinant of the outcome.
- The infection rate increases with the severity of the softtissue injury.
- " Greatest danger of infection lay in muscle not bone".
- Grades of soft tissue injury correlates with infection and fracture healing.
- Less important is the bony injury ", provided that the bone that has been injured has a blood supply.

Gustilo-Anderson open fracture grading

(Up To Date 2022)



Joint Surg Am 1976; 58:453. Orthopedics 1987; 10:1781.

Gustilo-Anderson open fracture grading (Up To Date 2022)

Туре	Wound size	Contamination	Fracture	Vascular injury requiring repair	Soft tissue coverage
(I	Wound <1 cm	Minimal	Minimal comminution; no periosteal stripping	No	Adequate
II	Wound >1 cm	Moderate	Moderate comminution; minimal periosteal stripping	No	Adequate
IIIA	Any size	Severe	Severe comminution or segmental fractures; periosteal stripping	No	Adequate; may become inadequate with debridements
IIIB	Any size	Severe	Severe comminution or segmental fractures; periosteal stripping	No	Inadequate (rotation flap or free flap)
IIIC	Any size	Severe	Severe comminution or segmental fractures; periosteal stripping	Yes	Inadequate (rotation flap or free flap)

Where and When Classify the Open FX.?

- Fracture type should not be classified in the Emergency Room.
- Most reliably done in the Operation Room at the completion of primary wound care and debridement.

Type I Open FX

Wound size : <1 cm</p>

Contamination: Minimal



- Fracture:
 - Minimal comminution
 - No periosteal stripping

Vascular injury requiring repair : No

Soft tissue coverage : Adequate

Type II Open FX

Wound size : >1 cm

Contamination: Moderate

- Fracture:
 - Moderate comminution;
 - Minimal periosteal stripping
- Vascular injury requiring repair: No

Soft tissue coverage: Adequate





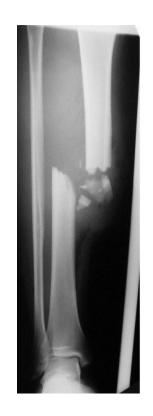
Type III A Open FX

Wound size: Any size

Contamination : Severe

- Fracture:
 - Severe comminution , or
 - Segmental fractures
 - Periosteal stripping
- Vascular injury requiring repair: No
- Soft tissue coverage:
 - Adequate;
 - May become inadequate with debridement





Type III B Open FX

- Wound size : Any size
- Contamination : Severe
- Fracture:
 - Severe comminution, or
 - Segmental fractures;
 - Periosteal stripping



- Vascular injury requiring repair: No
- Soft tissue coverage:

Inadequate (Rotation flap or free flap)

Type III C Open FX

Wound size : Any size

Contamination : Severe

- Fracture:
 - Severe comminution, or
 - Segmental fractures;
 - Periosteal stripping
- Vascular injury requiring repair: Yes





Soft tissue coverage:

Inadequate (Rotation flap or free flap)

Amputation?

The Location, Size And Nature

of the external wound

always may not reflect

the damage to the bone.

Disparity between Location of the wound and Fracture





Disparity between Size of Soft Tissue and Severity of Bone Injury



Disparity between Size of Soft Tissue and Bone Injury





Disparity between Nature of Soft Tissue and Bone injury



Similarity between Soft Tissue and Bone Injury





Epidemiology

- 11.5 per 100,000 per year
- 3% of all limb fractures

- Lower limb > Upper limb
- Tibia (50%)

Open fractures are best managed in centers with appropriate facilities for resuscitation and multispecialty care, By a Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) with the right team at the right time.

The outcome of open fractures depends on:

- The amount of devitalized soft tissue and bone.
- The level and type of Bacterial Contamination.
- Geometry of fracture.
- Patient factors.
- Injury factors.
- Comorbid factors.
- Management strategy(supportive ,medical and surgical)

Consequences of open fracture

- Known as an Orthopedics Emergency.
- Needs multidisciplinary team work specially in Muliple trauma cases.
- Soft tissue and neurovascular injuries are critical (سر نوشت ساز).
- Bone defect is problematic (مشكل آفرين) .
- Infection is tragedy (مصیبت) .
- Nonunion is disaster(بدبختی) .
- Malunion is problem (دشواری) .
- Joint damage ,Deformity, Limb disfiguration and Leg length discrepancy

are trouble (دردسر).

