Figure 1: flowchart of studies retrieved through search and inclusion/exclusion criteria

Title/abstract of potentially relevant studies identified and screened (n=33)

Full text studies retrieved and reviewed (n=5)

Studies included in final review (n=4)

Titles excluded (n=28)
Reasons:
- pre-operative splinting (n=2)
- Incomplete study (n=1)
- Not research (n=14)
- Non-English language (n=5)
- Not splinting (n=6)

Full studies excluded (n=1)
Reasons:
- post-op splinting less than 6 weeks (n=1) Jain et al 1988