Reviewer's report

Title: Complex Pediatric Elbow Injuries: Uncommon Cases

Version: 1 Date: 16 December 2004

Reviewer: David Ring

Reviewer's report:

General

Cases 1, 2/3, and 4 are all very different and don't really make a good series. I think that a reasonable paper can be made with only one or two cases and a change in focus.

Case 4 sounds like a relatively uncommon, but not unheard of intercondylar fracture.

Cases 2 and 3 are combined distal humerus and olecranon fractures, which is somewhat interesting; however, since the olecranon fractures were non-displaced, they are of relatively limited interest.

Case 1 I think is worthy of additional focus for the following reasons, which could be brought out in a very instructive way in a case report and review of the literature:

1. In adult traumatic elbow instability the focus has changed from the medial to the lateral collateral ligament. The LCL is now recognized as the most important elbow stabilizer and the one responsible for the majority of acute recurrent and chronic recurrent dislocations.
2. Elbow dislocation and medial epicondyle fracture is well-described in kids, but not elbow dislocation and lateral condyle fracture. Lateral condyle or epicondyle fracture may represent variations of LCL injury. I believe Patient 1 has an elbow dislocation variant with lateral condyle fracture instead of LCL intrasubstance injury or avulsion.
3. This type of injury has not been well-described in children.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no financial relationship related to this paper.