Letter to the editor

Response to the letter by Drs Li, Yao, Chang

We thank you for this useful remark. In fact, several technical points explained for this failure, which was shown as an example of imperfect blade positioning. In this case, the nail was inserted through the fracture line, producing the so-called wedge effect. In fact, in this particular case, the nail becomes an obstacle to neck impaction. Moreover, screw centering on the lateral view was suboptimal and head purchase was poor. In practice, technical errors explain most failures and it is mandatory to quantify quality of reduction, and of nail as well as of screw positioning before evaluating radiographic results. This is what we did in this multivariate analysis. We concluded that unstable fractures were more difficult to fix than stable fractures and found that the only independent factor that predicted mechanical failure was observer assessment of assembly quality as inadequate. It was more frequent in unstable fractures. Proper screw placement within the head is mandatory. However, we thank you for underlining the importance of the nail entry point, which must be prepared medially to the fracture line.

This technical trick is often underestimated and may compromise success in stable as well as in unstable fractures.

Disclosure of interest

Philippe Massin has received royalties from Microport and Ceramconcept and is currently consultant for Evolutis.

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