

Letter to the Editor

1 Letters of comment about recently published papers should be sent by email to: editor@journalofhandsurgery.com 27
3 or by post to: The Journal of Hand Surgery, PO Box 7704, Oakham LE15 ZH, UK. 29

5 Letters are sent to the authors of the original papers for their comments but will be published without a reply if the 31
7 authors do not wish to make a comment. The Editor reserves the right to make editorial and literary changes to
9 letters and to reject those deemed to be of insufficient interest to readers. 33

9 Dear Sir, 35

11 Re: Metacarpal shaft fractures of the fingers: treatment 37
13 with interosseous loop wire fixation and immediate 39
15 postoperative finger mobilisation in a wrist splint. M.M.
Al-Qattan, Journal of Hand Surgery 2006; 31B:
377-382. 41

17 I have read with interest Mr Al-Qattan's successful 43
19 experience with wire fixation of metacarpal shaft 45
21 fractures. The reason for my interest in his paper is 47
23 that I rarely find a need for treating these patients
25 surgically, or, indeed, immobilising them. I treat most
metacarpal fractures of the shaft in a "buddy" strapping
and the patients are immediately mobilised, and I have
yet to see a nonunion. I reserve surgery for those few
cases where there is malrotation causing finger scissoring
on full finger flexion or when the patient will not accept

the "bump" on the dorsum of the hand caused by the
fracture angulation. I would, therefore, appreciate it if
the author could detail the selection criteria for surgery
used in the paper. Furthermore, I would be interested to
know if "buddy" strapping and immediate mobilisation
is used for this fracture in Saudi Arabia. 41

Bo Povlsen 43
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Department of Ortho- 45
paedic Surgery, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 1YR UK
E-mail: bo@manusmedical.com 47

© 2007 Published by Elsevier Ltd. on behalf of The British Society for Surgery of the Hand. 49
doi:10.1016/j.jhse.2007.04.012 available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com> 51