

Letter to the Editor

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

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

Dear Sir,

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

I have read with interest Mr Al-Qattan's successful experience with wire fixation of metacarpal shaft fractures. The reason for my interest in his paper is that I rarely find a need for treating these patients 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.

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