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
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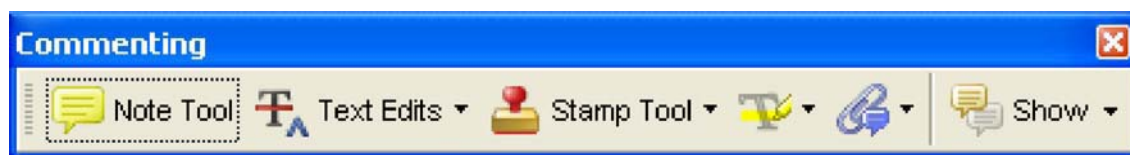
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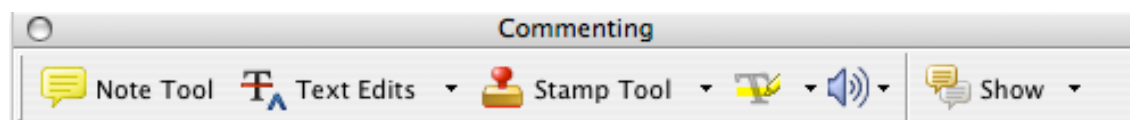
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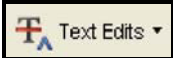
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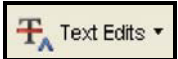
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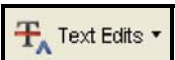
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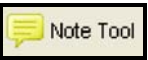
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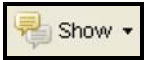
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PROVIDE SECTION HEAD

Nonsurgical Treatment of Fifth Metacarpal Neck Fractures

To the Editor:

I have with great interest read the article by Dr. Hofmeister et al. on the topic of nonsurgical treatment of fifth metacarpal neck fractures (J Hand Surg 2008;33A:1362–1368).

Though the aim of the study was to prospectively compare 2 methods of cast immobilization for the management of this injury, there was no mention made of the potential benefit of “buddy” taping and immediate active movement, which can achieve good joint mobility without the cost of lost mobility and possibly lost income during the casting period. As a recent article on this topic¹ was published prior to submission of the article by Hofmeister et al.,² I would be interested in the authors’ reason for this omission and to learn how the results of either of

their immobilized groups compared with the results of this mobilized group, particularly as cast avoidance would be expected to be more economical both for the individual and for the health care provider.

*Mr. Bo Povlsen
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Guy’s Hospital
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doi:10.1016/j.jhsa.2008.12.013

REFERENCES

1. Outcome of boxer’s fractures treated by a soft wrap and buddy taping: A prospective study. *Hand* 2007;2:212–217.
2. Hofmeister EP, Kim J, Shin AY. Comparison of 2 methods of immobilization of fifth metacarpal neck fractures: A prospective randomized study. *J Hand Surg* 2008;33A:1362–1368.

AQ: 1

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1

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