

Neglected 10 years old case of fracture patella –An interesting lesson to learn

Ambica Sharma

smt N H L Munucupal Medical College

fixortho@yahoo.com

In out patient clinic an attendant of a patient, on being told that for patient operation is absolutely required and will only cure the fracture showed his own (attendant's) knee – showing that he was walking normally and was able to do every thing. He (attendant) gave his own history - telling that he had broken his knee cap about 10 years back and was told same thing about operation, he underwent operation but operation failed leading to recurrence of the problem within 3 to 4 weeks. On being told for reoperation he refused and ultimately he has cured his knee by doing exercise (but no reoperation) and now he is alright for so many years. On clinical examination he was felt to have fracture

patella with two fragments felt separately. He did have an extensor lag of about 5-7 degrees but he said that this did not bother him as he is able to do all activities. On radiological examination he was found to have grossly displaced fracture patella with implant failure in the form of broken stainless steel wire. The clinical pictures (a video - if arrangements are possible – showing range of movement) and X rays will be shown. The purpose of presentation is to show the importance of body's reserve and a good result in spite no reoperation, for failed surgery - which should be kept in mind every time, whenever we tell patient that only surgery will cure the disease.