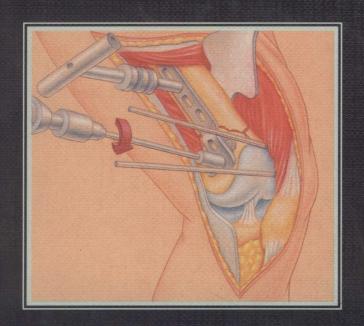
**Techniques in** 

# Fracture Fixation

As Practiced by the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic





Editor
Timothy J. Bray

Foreword by Michael W. Chapman

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As Practiced by the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic Reno, Nevada

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Timothy J. Bray, MD

Foreword by

Michael W. Chapman, MD

With illustrations by



Carol Kalafatic, Iris J. Nichols, and Carlyn Iverson

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# Fracture Fixation



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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the patients, families, and partners of the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic.

### CONTRIBUTORS

### from the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic

#### **ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS**

James R. Herz, MD
Jack P. Sargent, MD
William A. Teipner, MD
Harold E. Halvorson, MD
Stephen D. Dow, MD
E. James Greenwald, MD
James L. Christensen, MD
Patrick S. Herz, MD
Robert J. Parlasca, MD
Lex A. Simpson, MD
Timothy J. Bray, MD
Richard W. Blakey, MD

#### **PHYSIATRIST**

E. Gary Starr, MD



### PRIMA (CD

The Reno Orthopaedic Clinic was founded by the three senior partners in 1959. The practice began in a converted, small home well away from existing hospitals. As some of our older readers may remember, it started in the days of \$5 office visits and fees of under \$100 for the complete treatment of a fractured hip.

During subsequent years, additional orthopedists were gradually added to our staff. In the course of those additions, our facility expanded. Currently, 13 partners practice in a large, modern office facility with research activities and staffing for three hospitals. A Level II Trauma Center is the mainstay of our fracture practice, requiring each staff member to be

adept at handling a variety of injuries.

The Reno Orthopaedic Clinic has always insisted that each partner maintain the skills of a general orthopedist first, and a subspecialist second. Our more recent partners have all had subspecialty training in various areas and are always available for expert advice. Each partner has always attempted to maintain a sense of individuality, but with our frequent office consultations and meetings we feel we have been able to develop a cohesive group that has kept up with the current trends in our specialties.

The major goal for the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic has always been to practice quality orthopedics. The techniques that we describe in this text are not original by any means. They are procedures that have evolved from our exposure to American and European fracture surgeons as well as our continued modification and redefining of accepted practices. We prefer procedures that are workable with a minimum amount of morbidity.

Judgment and compassion are the cornerstones of good orthopedics. These, combined with

sound surgical techniques, give us the best chance of good results.

We feel strongly that conservatism plays a great part in our surgical specialty, but we have not discussed that aspect of the practice in this text. We hope that the text will be helpful for residents and solo orthopedists, particularly for those practicing away from a large center. This book might give them immediate pictorial consultation when it otherwise might not be readily available.

William Teipner, MD
Associate, Reno Orthopaedic Clinic, 1959
American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, 1961
American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 1964
American Orthopedic Association, 1983

## FOREWORD

The reader picking up this book for the first time might ask, "Why yet another book on fracture fixation?" This excellent text justifies itself in two respects. It is the most lavishly illustrated book yet to be produced on bone fixation techniques. This is consistent with the excellent tradition of Gower Medical Publishing which has focused its efforts on works with high-quality color illustrations. The reader will enjoy the beauty, and benefit from the accuracy and realism of the many excellent surgical photographs in this text. Surgical exposures and techniques are difficult to illustrate and photograph in a way that is easily understood by the reader; this text meets this need better than any I have read before. Second, Dr. Bray and his contributors from the Reno Orthopaedic Clinic have brought to us a unique intellectual property in that this work represents the collected opinions and experience of a group of private-practice-based orthopedic surgeons with an accumulated total experience measured in hundreds of years. This text brings to our attention those surgical approaches and techniques in bone fixation that have worked best in the hands of these experienced, pragmatically minded surgeons. The techniques are based on AO-ASIF techniques and implants, which is understandable considering the background of the editor and authors who have been heavily trained in and remain contributors to the philosophies embodied in the Swiss-German approach to bone fixation. Dr. Bray and his contributors have always kept an open mind and have constantly explored other approaches to and methods for bone fixation; the best of what they have found to work is also presented.

Although the majority of their text focuses on surgical technique, each chapter has a nice introduction to the topic, considers the anatomy of the area, and presents a brief background on the fixation problem of concern, giving fracture classifications, and so on. Their story is told in atlas style rather than descriptive text. Most surgeons will appreciate this visual approach and will find each one of their pictures to be worth a thousand words.

The text is divided into ten chapters which first address fracture and fixation problems in the axial skeletal and then move on to the extremities on an anatomical basis. Chapter 6 is unique in that it addresses the overall issue of intramedullary fixation, a technique unto itself, and Chapter 10 covers nerve injuries in fracture care. Nerve injuries frequently accompany fractures and are deserving of the attention of surgeons involved in fracture fixation. This text focuses on surgical technique. For detail on pitfalls and complications the reader will need to seek out more comprehensive texts that spend less time on the details of surgical technique.

Who should read this text? This atlas of fracture fixation is an excellent practical manual of bone fixation which, because of the excellent illustrative material, will be useful to medical students to better understand the techniques involved. It is an obvious reference for residents in orthopedic surgery who seek more detailed description and illustration of surgical techniques than are available in most other textbooks. Having this text available in the library of operating rooms will be useful for operating room personnel who wish to acquaint themselves with procedures their surgeons are performing. Lastly, it is an excellent resource for mature, practicing orthopedic surgeons who want detailed description and illustration of operative procedure—a large part of their practice if they are involved in general orthopedics or trauma care. To all of these potential readers I commend this superbly illustrated textbook.

Michael W. Chapman, MD Department of Orthopaedic Surgery University of California, Davis

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Thanks also to the people at Gower: Iris J. Nichols, Carlyn Iverson, and especially Carol Kalafatic for the beautiful operative and anatomic schematics; Eric Goldman for starting the project and Leah Kennedy for finishing it; Tom Tedesco for the pleasing design; and the former president of Gower, Abe Krieger, for his support of the book.

## CONTENTS

Chapter 1		Surgical Technique	2.5
*		Open Reduction Internal Fixation of the Pubic Symphysis	2.7
Fixation of Spinal Disorders	1.0	Indications	2.7
Introduction	1.2	Surgical Technique	2.7
Initial Diagnosis and Management	1.2	Posterior Stabilization	2.9
Applying the Halo and Halo Vest	1.2	General Principles	2.9
The Myelogram, CT Scan, and MRI	1.4	Posterior Sacroiliac Stability	2.9
Decision Making and Methods of Stabilizing	A plantable	Posterior Pelvic Plating	2.10
Various Fracture Types	1.7	Surgical Procedure	2.10
Upper Cervical Spine	1.7	Plate Selection and Preparation	2.10
C-1 Fracture and Ligamentous Instability C-1	-	Fixation of the Plate	2.15
on C-2	1.7	Advantages and Drawbacks	2.15
Odontoid Fractures	1.7	Screw Fixation of Sacroiliac Disruptions	2.15
Bilateral Fracture of the Pars Interarticularis		Sacroiliac Fracture Dislocations	2.18
at C-2 (Hangman's Fracture)	1.13	Surgical Technique	2.19
Mid and Lower Cervical Spine	1.15	Special Techniques	2.19
Pure Ligamentous Injury	1.15	Surgical Technique	2.19
Flexion Teardrop Fracture Dislocation	1.15	CT-Guided Percutaneous Screw Fixation of the	
Bilateral Locked Facets	1.18	Sacroiliae Joint	2.20
Hyperextension Injury with Multiple Laminar		Indications	2.20
Fractures	1.21	Preoperative Considerations	2.21
Burst Fracture	1.22	Surgical Procedure	2.21
Unilateral Locked Facet	1.22	Summary	2.22
Extension Rotation with Lateral Mass Fractures		Summary	4.44
(Pillar Fractures)	1.22	- manning the statut with the state of	
Surgical Technique for C-1, C-2 Posterior Fusion	1.22	Chapter 3	
Anterior Approach to the Cervical Spine	1.25	Fractures of the Acetabulum	
Anterior Plating	1.27	Tribute	3.2
Use of the Dowel Graft	1.29	Introduction	3.2
Posterior Approach to the Cervical Spine	1.32	Radiographic Evaluation of the Acetabulum	3.2
Fixation Techniques: Thoracolumbar Spine	1.35	Judet Views	3.2
Posterior Approaches and Fixation Techniques	1.37	Tomography and 3-D Reconstruction	3.2
Harrington Rod Instrumentation	1.39	Classification of Acetabular Fractures	3.5
Harrington Rods with Decompression	1.40	Surgical Approaches in the Treatment of Acetabular	0.0
Harrington-Luque Technique	1.46	Fractures	3.12
Luque Rod Fixation	1.47	Choice of Surgical Approaches	3.12
Harrington Rods with Wisconsin or Drummond		Preparing the Patient for Surgery	3.12
Wire Fixation	1.48	Posterior Column Pathology: Positioning, Approach,	3.14
Compression Rod Techniques	1.50	and Fixation	3.14
Knodt Rods	1.50	Patient Positioning	3.14
Pedicle Screw Fixation	1.54		3.14
Anterior Fixation Techniques—Thoracolumbar Spine	1.59	The Approach	3.16
Zielke Device	1.60	Fixation of Posterior Column Pathology	3.16
Anterior Lumbar Strut Graft Techniques	1.66	Treatment of Posterior Wall Fractures	
Anterior Vertebrectomy or Corpectomy	1.68	Treatment of Posterior Column Fractures	3.17
Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion	1.70	Treatment of Transverse Fractures	3.17
Conclusions	1.80	Treatment of T-Shaped Fractures	3.17
Conclusions	1.00	Prevention of Reduction Difficulties in Posterior	
		Acetabular Surgery	3.17
Chapter 2		Anterior Column Pathology: Positioning, Approach,	
Disruptions of the Pelvic Ring		and Fixation	3.19
Introduction	2.2	Patient Positioning	3.19
External Pelvic Fixation: "The Resuscitation Frame"	2.2	The Approach	3.19
Surgical Technique	2.4	Fixation of Anterior Column Pathology	3.20
Anterior Plate Fixation of the Sacroiliac Joint	2.5	Treatment of Anterior Column-	
I mio I manon or the outer office your		Anterior Wall Fractures	3.20

Treatment of Both-Column Fractures	3.20	Incision	5.20
Complications of Acetabular Surgery	3.23	Possibility of Iliac Bone Graft	5.21
Ectopic Bone Formation	3.23	Reconstruction	5.21
Infection	3.23	Soft Tissue Repair	5.22
Iatrogenic Nerve Palsy	3.23	Patella Fractures	5.27
Conclusion	3.24	Indications for Fixation	5.27
		Approach	5.27
Chapter 1		Patient Preparation and Incisions	5.27
Chapter 4		Fixation Technique	5.28
Hip Fractures		Postoperative Plan	5.30
Introduction	4.2	Hamilton Time Arts Co., and and the	
Anatomy	4.3	Chanton 6	
Vascular Anatomy	4.3	Chapter 6	
Transcervical Fractures	4.3	Intramedullary Fixation	
Classification	4.3	Mechanical Considerations in Intramedullary Nailing	6.2
Operative Techniques	4.4	The Intramedullary Rod	6.2
Patient Preparation	4.4	Femur—The Classic Case	6.2
Alternative Method	4.9	Indications and Preoperative Planning	6.2
Displaced Femoral Neck Fractures	4.10	Positioning	6.3
Timing of Femoral Neck Fracture Management	4.10	Draping	6.4
Open Reduction	4.10	Surgical Technique	6.4
Prosthetic Replacement	4.10	Incision	6.4
Operative Technique	4.11	Reaming the Intramedullary Canal	6.6
Preoperative Planning	4.11	Rod Insertion	6.6
Positioning	4.11	Femur: Interlocked Nailing	6.7
Distal Reaming	4.11	Indications	6.7
Midshaft Area Preparation	4.13	Surgical Technique	6.8
Proximal Metaphyseal Preparation	4.14	Proximal Targeting	6.8
Trial Reduction	4.14	Closed, Unlocked Tibial Nailing	6.10
Femoral Canal Preparation	4.14	Indications	6.10
Intertrochanteric Fractures	4.16	Preoperative Planning	6.10
Technique	4.19	Operative Set-up	6.11
Subtrochanteric Fractures	4.22	Draping	6.11
Types of Fixation	4.22	Surgical Technique	6.12
Gamma Nail	4.24	Nail Insertion	6.13
Surgical Technique	4.24	Tibia: Interlocked Nailing	6.13
Fixation Implants	4.29	Indications	6.13
ASIF/AO 95 Degree Blade Plate for a Transverse		Surgical Technique	6.13
Short Oblique Subtrochanteric Fracture	4.32	Rod Insertion	6.13
Pitfalls Related to Hip Fracture Fixation	4.33	Postoperative Care	6.14
Case 1 Compression Screw Failure	4.33	Advanced Techniques	6.14
Case 2 Checking Your Reductions	4.34	Closed Femoral Osteotomy	6.14
Case 3 Center Head, AP & Lateral	4.34	Closed Femoral Bone Grafting	6.16
Conclusions	4.34	a munchus)	
Cl 7		Chapter 7	
Chapter 5		Ankle Fractures	
Fractures of the Knee		Introduction	7.2
Fractures of the Distal Femur	5.2	Functional Anatomy	7.2
General Considerations	5.2	Surgical Anatomy	7.3
Operative Technique	5.5	Fracture Classification	7.5
Advanced Techniques	5.12	Lauge-Hansen and Danis-Weber	7.5
Wound Closure	5.13	Treatment of Ankle Fractures	7.6
Unicondylar Fractures	5.14	Weber Type A	7.7
Nonunion	5.15		7.7
Evaluation	5.15	Appearance Operative Technique	7.8
Technique	5.15		7.10
Tibial Plateau Fractures	5.17	Postoperative Plan Weber Type R	7.10
Types	5.17	Weber Type B	
Approach	5.18	Appearance	7.10
Percutaneous Fixation Techniques	5.18	Operative Technique	7.10
Indications and Technique	5.18	Lag Screw Techniques	7.10
		Antiglide	7.13
Open Reduction Techniques	5.19	Weber Type C	7.15

Appearance	7.15	Acute Fractures of the Talus	9.14
Operative Technique	7.16	Surgical Technique—Posterior Screw Placement	9.15
Special Fracture Considerations	7.17	Reduction Tips	9.18
Delayed Open Reduction-Internal Fixation of		Acute Fracture of the Calcaneus	9.20
Ankle Fractures	7.17	Surgical Technique	9.20
Open Reduction-Internal Fixation in the Open		Midfoot Fracture Dislocations	9.25
Ankle Fracture	7.17	Surgical Technique	9.25
Severe Fracture Dislocations with Bone Loss Around		Lis-Franc Fracture Dislocations	9.26
the Ankle	7.18	Fifth Metatarsal Fractures	9.26
Treatment of Plafond Fractures	7.18	Surgical Technique	9.26
Appearance	7.18	Conclusions	9.29
Preoperative Planning	7.19	The Hand	9.29
Surgical Technique	7.19	Introduction	9.29
Prognosis and Rehabilitation	7.24	Distal Radius	9.29
Ratings	7.24	Treatment Philosphy	9.31
Methods	7.24	Surgical Techniques for Loss of Reduction	9.31
Other Considerations	7.25	Postoperatively	9.32
Complications	7.25	External Fixation	9.33
Infection	7.25	AO/ASIF External Fixator	9.33
	7.25		
Malunions and Nonunions		Open Reduction Internal Fixation	9.36
Soft Tissue Damage	7.25	Surgical Technique	9.38
		Malreduction of the Distal Radius	9.39
Chapter 8		Surgical Technique	9.39
Arm and Elbow Fixation		Metacarpal and Phalanx Fractures	9.41
Introduction	8.2	Treatment Principles	9.41
Proximal Humerus Fractures	8.3	Metacarpal Plate Technique	9.41
Treatment	8.3	Metacarpal Neck Fractures	9.41
Surgical Technique	8.3	Treatment	9.41
	8.6	Thumb Metacarpal Fractures	9.41
Postoperative Protocol		Surgical Technique	9.46
Open Reduction Internal Fixation Procedure	8.6	Phalanx Fractures	9.46
	8.8	Scaphoid Fractures	9.51
Nonunions and Osteotomies of the Proximal Humerus	8.11	Surgical Technique	9.51
Midshaft Humerus Fractures	8.12	Conclusions	9.53
Surgical Technique	8.13		
Intermedullary Nailing	8.14	Chapter 10	
Surgical Technique	8.16		
Supracondylar Fracture of the Elbow	8.19	Nerve Injuries in Fracture Care	7.0.0
Surgical Technique	8.19	Introduction In Control In Contro	10.2
Radial Head Fractures	8.21	Causalgia and Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophies	10.2
Surgical Technique	8.21	Clinical Profile	10.2
Implant Selection	8.21	Treatment	10.2
Olecranon Fractures	8.23	Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy	10.2
Surgical Techniques	8.23	Gradation of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy	10.2
Both Bone Forearm Fractures	8.26	Stages of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy	10.3
Surgical Technique	8.26	Treatment	10.3
Conclusion	8.29	Peripheral Nerve Injuries	10.3
		Etiology and Classification of Peripheral Nerve Injuries	10.3
Chapter 9		Diagnosis	10.3
	1,04	Electromyogram Studies	10.3
Fracture Fixation of the Hand and Fo		Specific Nerve Injuries	10.4
The Foot	9.2	Brachial Plexus	10.4
Introduction	9.2	Anatomy	10.4
General Principles	9.2	Injury	10.4
Ankle (Tibial-Talar Joint)	9.2	Examination	10.4
Treatment: Posttraumatic Arthritis	9.3	Upper Brachial Plexus	10.4
Arthroscopic Ankle Debridement	9.4	Lower Brachial Plexus	10.4
Instrumentation	9.4	Supracapsular Nerve	10.4
Technique	9.4	Anatomy	10.4
Ankle Arthrodesis	9.7	Injury	10.4
Subtalar Joint	9.9	Examination	10.7
Routine Subtalar Arthrodesis	9.9	Axillary Nerve	10.7
Sugical Technique	9.9	Anatomy	10.7
Postoperatively	9.13	Injury	10.7
		3	-

Examination	10.7	Anatomy	10.15
Radial Nerve	10.7	Injury	10.15
Anatomy	10.7	Sciatic Nerve	10.16
Injury	10.7	Anatomy	10.16
Examination	10.8	Injury	10.16
Median Nerve	10.8	Examination	10.16
Anatomy	10.8	Peroneal Nerve	10.16
Injury	10.8	Anatomy	10.16
Examination	10.9	Injury	10.16
Ulnar Nerve	10.10	Examination	10.17
Anatomy	10.10	Tibial Nerve	10.17
Injury	10.10	Anatomy	10.17
Examination	10.11	Injury	10.17
Sacral Plexus	10.11	Postoperative Problems That Respond Well	
Anatomy	10.11	to Rehabilitation	10.19
Injury	10.11	Swelling and Scar Formation	10.19
Obturator Nerve	10.13	Treatment	10.19
Anatomy	10.13	Functional Fracture Bracing	10.19
Injury	10.13	Conclusions	10.19
Examination	10.13		
Femoral Nerve	10.13	Index	1.6
Anatomy	10.13		
Injury	10.14	Figure Credits	1.7
Examination	10.15		
Pudendal Nerve	10.15		

### FIXATION OF SPINAL DISORDERS



chapter one

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