

Handoll HHG, Parker MJ. Conservative versus operative treatment for hip fractures in adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2008, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD000337

Design: systematic review of randomized and quasi-randomized clinical trials

Study purpose: to compare conservative with operative management of proximal femoral fractures in adults

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- There are too few controversies concerning whether hip fractures should be managed conservatively or surgically
- The most recent randomized trial was published in 1989, and it is not likely that future trials would be practical
- The controversies in management of hip fractures have migrated to issues concerning selection of patients for open reduction with internal fixation versus arthroplasty, with when intramedullary nailing is better than sliding screws with side plates, and other decision points; the issue of conservative versus operative treatment has been resolved in favor of operative management