

SIMULTANEOUS TRAUMATIC POSTERIOR DISLOCATION OF BOTH HIPs

A Case Report

R. BOSE, T. ZABIHI & M. OMARIE

Department of Surgery, Pahlavi Medical School, Pahlavi University,
Shiraz, Iran

Simultaneous traumatic posterior dislocation of both hips, uncomplicated by fracture, is an exceptionally rare entity. The authors could not find any record of a similar case in the world medical literature up till now, and are therefore reporting this case with special consideration of the mechanism of injury and the management.

Key words: dislocation of hips, bilateral, posterior

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CASE REPORT

A 56-year-old male of thin build was travelling seated in the rear seat of a car. He was rather tightly placed between other passengers. When the car had a head-on collision with another vehicle, he was pushed forward with great force jamming his knees against the back of the front seat. Following the incident the patient was brought to the Nemazee Hospital with complaints of severe pain in both hips and inability to move the hips and straighten the legs. He was found to be in

shock with both inferior extremities in flexion, adduction and internal rotation so that the legs were almost crossing each other. All active and passive movements of both hips were absent. Both the femoral heads were palpable in the gluteal areas. There were no signs of other lesions.

X-rays demonstrated posterior dislocation of both hips (Figure 1). The hips were reduced under general anaesthesia with the patient lying supine on the floor. X-rays confirmed that the reduction was successful. At the most recent follow-up 6 months after the injury he remained symptom-free with normal radiological findings.



Figure 1. X-ray showing posterior dislocation of both hips.

DISCUSSION

Most posterior dislocations of the hips are due to dashboard injury to the flexed adducted leg of the front-seat passenger (Apley 1976). Our patient was unusual in that he was a rear-seat passenger. He was seated with both legs flexed and adducted at the hips when a forceful impact of the knees against the back of the front seats led to simultaneous dislocation of both hips.

Bilateral dislocation of the hips associated with fractures of either femur or acetabulum has already been described by Lyddon &

Hartman (1971) and Ingram & Turner (1954), but an uncomplicated case such as this has not been recorded so far.

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Correspondence to: Dr. R. Bose, M.S. (Orthop.), F.R.C.S. (Ed.), Department of Surgery, Pahlavi University, School of Medicine, Shiraz, Iran.