

Endoskopie

Technical refinements and new instruments for the transoral endoscopic assisted open treatment of condylar fractures

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Refinements of instruments and surgical technique facilitates the endoscopic assisted reduction and miniplate fixation of condylar mandible fractures. The endoscopic assisted treatment of dislocated condylar fractures by limited transoral incision was performed at the University Hospital Freiburg from February 2000 to January 2002. In 12 consecutive patients endoscopic assisted reduction and fixation of dislocated condylar fractures was performed using a prototype set of instruments (Synthes, Paoli, USA, AO Development Institute, Davos, Switzerland) (Fig.1). Intraoperatively anatomic reduction was controlled endoscopically at the cranial and posterior border of the ascending ramus. Due to bone loss at the fracture side or reduced dentition postoperative IMF was performed for five days in four patients. In eight out of the 12 patients intermaxillary fixation (IMF) was not performed.

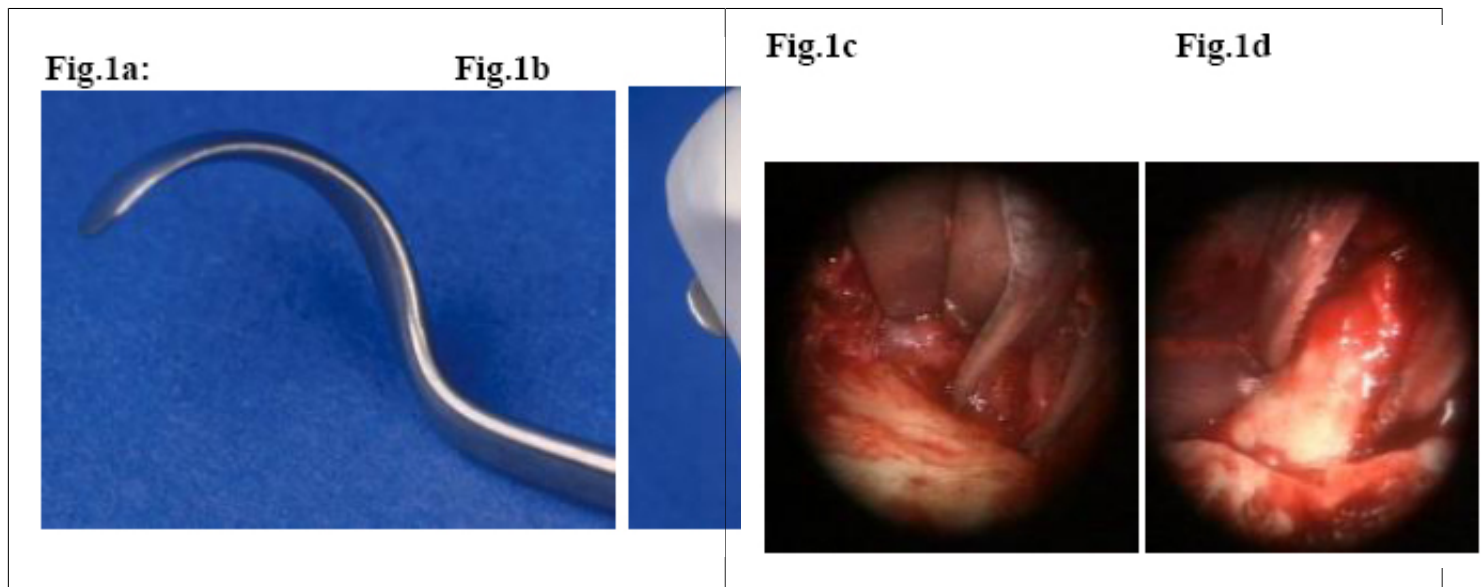


Figure. 1: Curved elevator (Fig.1a-b) and pliers (Fig. 1c,d) for retrieving and reduction of dislocated condylar fragment.

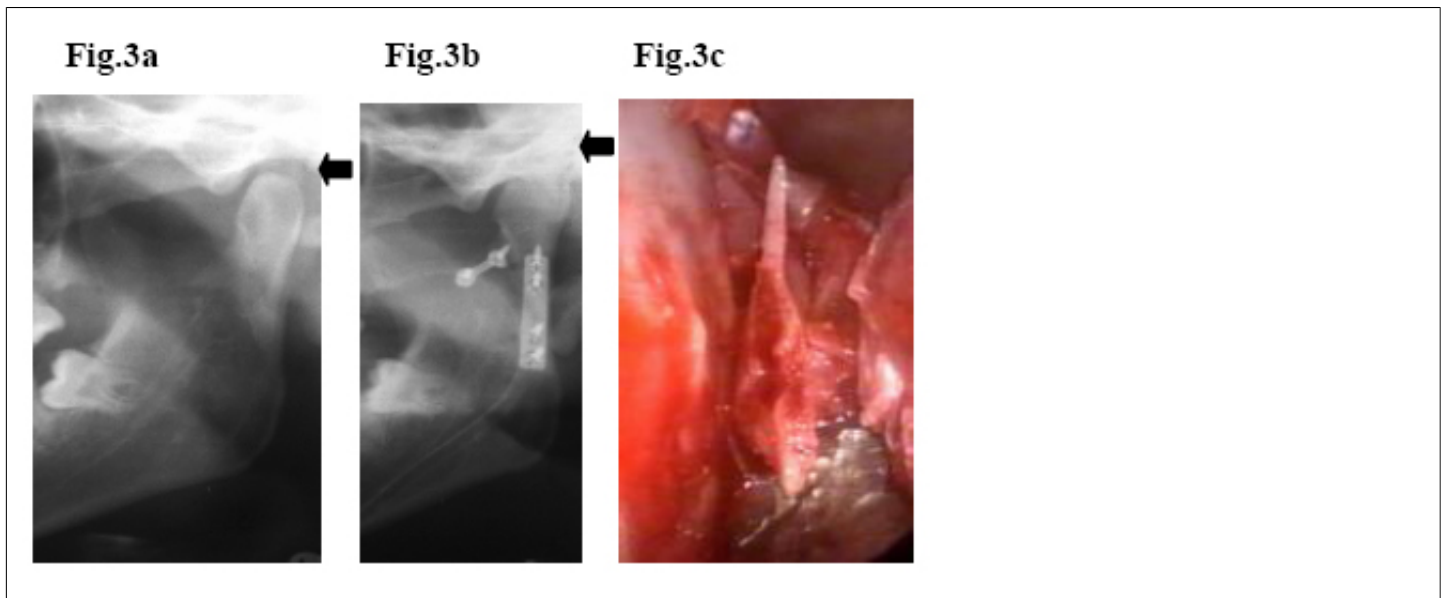


Figure 3a-c: Pre- and postoperative panoramic radiographs and endoscopic view of the fracture site demonstrate the degree of dislocation with shortening of the ascending ramus, and restoration of the vertical height after open reduction and osteosynthesis (Fig.3a, b, c).

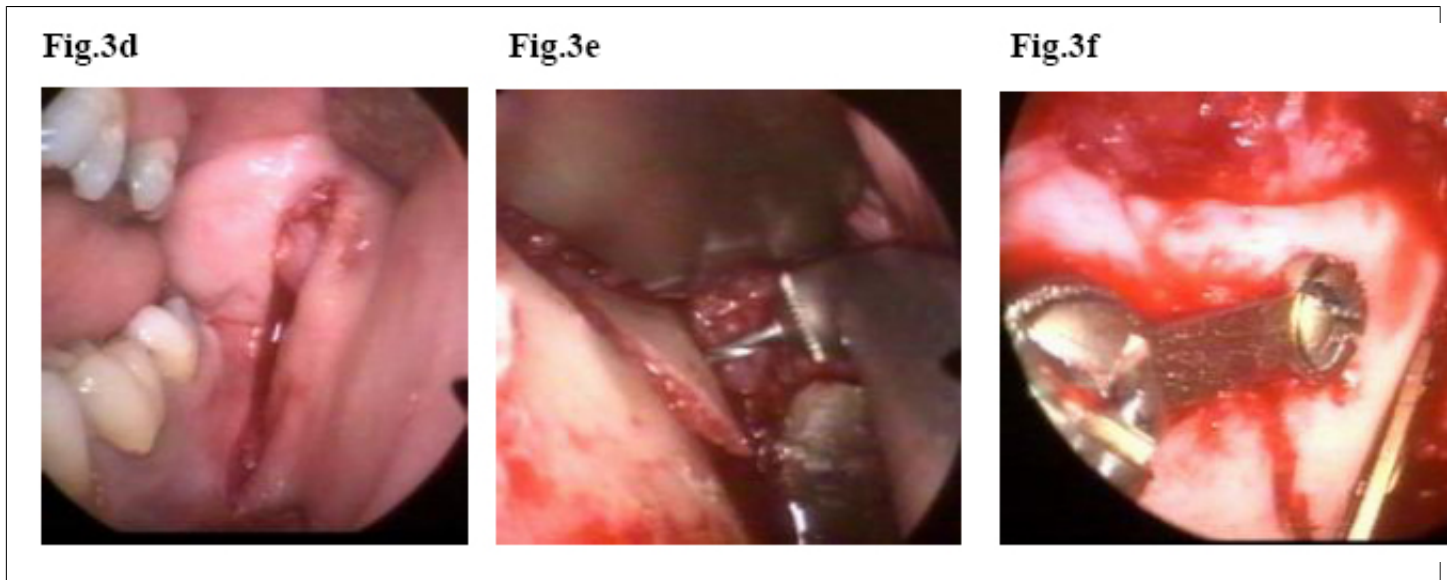


Figure 3d-g: Limited intraoral incision were used for the endoscopic assisted treatment (Fig.3d). Open reduction and fixation was performed using angulated drill and screw driver without transbuccal step incision (Fig.3e). Intraoperatively anatomic reduction was controlled endoscopically at the cranial aspect and in another patient at the dorsal aspect of the ascending ramus (Fig.3f, g). A prototype of a 2.0mm AO 4 hole plate was used at the posterior aspect of the ascending ramus (Fig.3b,f).

The mean operating time for transoral reduction of dislocated condylar fracture without IMF was 1 h 50 min. Anatomic reduction and uneventful healing were noted clinically and by postoperative radiographs. There were no signs of malocclusion in the group of eight patients without IMF. Good postoperative function and mouth opening without deviation and limitation on lateral extrusion was noted 4 weeks after surgery in all 12 patients.

The endoscopic assisted transoral approach proved to be a reliable surgical method for the treatment of dislocated condylar fractures. Instruments designed for condylar fracture treatment facilitated the open management of the condylar fractures.

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