

Comparison of 3.5 locking compression plate fixation to 3.5 limited contact dynamic compression plate fixation

Dear Sir,

We thank Dr. Hans van der Zee for his insightful comments regarding our in vitro study comparing the biomechanics of locking compression

plates and dynamic compression plates, which appeared in the VCOT Issue 4, 2009 (2). We concur that the data presented in this manuscript contributes to the body of literature on the mechanical performance of these plating systems, and should be considered in conjunction with other published information when making clinically relevant decisions. As with all in vitro mechanical models, specific criteria and assumptions are established in the study design to allow scientifically sound comparisons to be made. These often do not ideally reflect the 'clinical situation', yet provide valuable information when comparing two implant systems under uniform conditions. The limitations of the study were described and were consistent with previous mechanical studies comparing implant systems.

We also concur with Dr. Hans van der Zee that all implant systems 'have unique advantages and disadvantages' (thus the reason to conduct direct comparative studies), and we regularly use both systems in our clinical practices as well. The mention in our article of the

relative costs of the implants was appropriate since it is important to surgeons when selecting implants for fracture repair; particularly when a definitive clinical or mechanical advantage between implant systems, and the ideal situations in which each implant system might be advantageous, is not yet clearly defined in the available literature.

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