

# Złamania trzonu kości ramiennej – kiedy nie operować?

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International Medical Portal

# Humeral shaft fractures – when not to operate?

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The II International Trauma Symposium – Injuries of the upper extremity

# Humeral shaft fx – general considerations

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- Good soft tissue envelope

# Humeral shaft fx – conservative treatment

- 33-90% of humeral shaft fractures are reported to be treated conservatively

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- Union rate 90%

# Humeral shaft fx – why not to operate?

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- Patient not fit for surgery
- Extreme osteoporosis
- Consider possible complications (nonunion, iatrogenic radial nerve palsy, shoulder pain and limited shoulder ROM, decreased elbow ROM, complications related to anaesthesia)

# Humeral shaft fx – alignment criteria for conservative treatment

- <30° varus/valgus angulation

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- < 3cm shortening

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- <20° anterior angulation
- < 3cm shortening
- Radial nerve palsy is NOT a contraindication for conservative treatment

# Humeral shaft fx –conservative treatment

- Coaptation splint (U-cast) and functional bracing

# Humeral shaft fx – absolute indications for operative treatment

- Open fracture

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- Brachial plexus injury
- Ipsilateral forearm fracture (floating elbow)
- Compartment syndrome

# Humeral shaft fx – relative indications for operative treatment

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- Bilateral humerus fracture
- Polytrauma or associated lower extremity fx (early weight bearing)
- Pathologic fractures
- Burns or soft tissue injury that precludes bracing
- Fracture characteristics:
  - distraction at fracture site
  - short oblique or transverse fracture pattern
  - segmental fracture

# Humeral shaft fx –operative treatment

- ORIF with plating (compression plate, bridge plating, neutralization plating)

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- Intramedullary nailing (antegrade IMN, retrograde IMN)

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- Intramedullary nailing (antegrade IMN, retrograde IMN)
- External Fixator

# Humeral shaft fx – the take-home message

- Conservative treatment of humeral shaft fx is recommended for majority of patients
- Only some fx will require surgical treatment
- Radial nerve palsy is NOT a contraindication for conservative treatment



**Thank you.**

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