

THE ANATOMY OF BONE HEALING: BONE REGENERATION IN ORTHOPEDIC MEDICINE

KHAN QUA^{1*}, MALIK F¹, NAQVI SAZ¹, KAUSAR T², RAZA T³, MANSOOR A⁴

¹Department of Anatomy, Liaquat College of Medicine and Dentistry, Pakistan

²Department of Anatomy, Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi, Pakistan

³Department of Orthopedics, KMU Institute of Medical Sciences Kohat, Pakistan

⁴School of Dentistry, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad, Pakistan

*Correspondence author email address: drquratkhali786@gmail.com

(Received, 27th November 2023, Revised 20th February 2024, Published 19th March 2024)

Abstract: Bone regeneration is a physiological bone formation process involved in routine fracture healing and continuous remodeling throughout adult life. The study's main objective is to determine the role of orthopedic medicines in bone regeneration and healing process. This retrospective study was conducted in a public hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, from February 2023 to June 2023. The study aimed to collect data from 120 bone fracture patients and evaluate the progression of bone healing to identify critical determinants of successful regeneration. Clinical assessments, radiological imaging, and histopathological analyses were conducted to achieve the study's objectives. The study collected data from 120 patients, with a mean age of 45.21±12.3 years. Of these, 70 were male and 50 were female. Upper extremities accounted for 40% of fractures, lower extremities 30%, and axial skeleton 30%. Simple fractures accounted for 50% of cases, while comminuted fractures represented 30% and open fractures 20%. There was a strong positive correlation between fracture severity and the time required for radiographic union, with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.65 (p < 0.001). Additionally, biomarkers of bone turnover exhibited a moderate positive correlation with radiological healing, with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.45 (p = 0.003). The study concludes that orthopedic interventions have a high success rate in achieving satisfactory outcomes, with the majority of patients experiencing successful bone healing and restoration of function.

Keywords: Bone, Regeneration, Patients, Healing, Function

Introduction

Bone healing is a complex physiological process vital for restoring skeletal integrity and function following fractures, trauma, or orthopedic surgeries. Understanding the unpredictable components of bare bone recovery is fundamental for advancing compelling, helpful techniques in muscular medication. This interaction includes composed occasions, including irritation, cell multiplication, network statement, and rebuilding, coordinated by many cell types and flagging pathways (Kim et al., 2020). Bones have an innate ability to recover as a feature of their regular fix process in light of injury, skeletal turn of events, or the progression of rebuilding as an adult. The course of bone recovery includes a fastidiously organized series of natural occasions, including bone enlistment and conduction, which connect with different cell types and sub-atomic flagging pathways inside and outside the cells (Sheen et al., 2023). This interaction follows an unmistakable transient and spatial grouping pointed toward streamlining skeletal fixes and reestablishing skeletal capability. In clinical practice, the most common type of bone recovery happens during break mending, where the formative pathways of ordinary fetal skeletogenesis, for example, intramembranous and endochondral hardening, are reenacted (Bahney et al., 2019).

Bones can recover and fix themselves, frequently without scar development, in instances of wounds and cracks. In any case, the normal mending cycle might fizzle during obsessive cracks or broad bone deformities. Factors, for

example, lacking blood supply, bone or tissue contaminations, and foundational illnesses, can hinder bone mending, prompting deferred unions or non-unions (Go et al., 2018). Bone uniting, the second most normal tissue transplantation methodology following blood bonding, includes the implantation of materials that advance bone mending through different systems, such as osteogenesis, osteoinduction, and osteoconduction, either alone or combined (Ghiassi et al., 2017).

Choosing an optimal bone graft depends on numerous factors, including tissue viability, defect and graft size, biomechanical properties, handling characteristics, cost, ethical considerations, biological features, and associated risks (Gao et al., 2018). Bone graft materials fall into several categories, including autografts, allografts, xenografts, synthetic materials, tissue-engineered biomaterials, and their combinations. Each option has advantages and disadvantages, emphasizing the need for careful consideration and individualized selection based on specific clinical scenarios (Liu et al., 2018). Thus, the study's main objective is to find the role of orthopedic medicines in bone regeneration and healing process.

Methodology

This retrospective study was conducted in a public hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, from February 2023 to June 2023. Data was collected from 120 bone fracture patients. The study included patients aged 18 years or older who were

diagnosed with bone fractures of diverse causes. Excluded were patients who declined participation, those with a medical history of bone metabolic disorders or systemic illnesses impacting bone metabolism, and those with severe comorbidities like uncontrolled diabetes or autoimmune diseases that might impede the healing process.

Each enrolled patient underwent a comprehensive clinical assessment, including a detailed medical history, physical examination, and evaluation of fracture characteristics. Factors like fracture location, seriousness, and related delicate tissue wounds were reported. Standard radiographs, like X-beams and processed tomography (CT) filters, were performed to survey fracture examples, arrangement, and mending movement after some time. High-level imaging modalities, including attractive reverberation (X-ray), assessed delicate tissue contribution and picture bone recovery. Blood tests were gathered from patients at different times, focusing on surveying bone turnover, aggravation, and healing biomarkers. Boundaries, for example, serum levels of soluble phosphatase, C-receptive protein, and cytokines, were estimated to screen the fundamental reaction to fracture and recuperating movement. Clinical appraisals, radiological imaging, and histopathological investigations are led to assess the movement of bone recuperating and distinguish key determinants of fruitful recovery.

Data were analyzed using SPSS 29. Correlation analyses explored associations between fracture characteristics, biomarkers, and healing progression.

Results

Data was collected from 120 patients; the mean age was 45.21±12.3 years. There were 70 male and 50 female patients. Fractures occur most frequently in the upper extremities (40%), followed by the lower extremities (30%) and the axial skeleton (30%) (Table 1). Regarding type and severity, simple fractures account for 50% of cases, comminuted fractures represent 30%, and open

fractures comprise 20% of the total fractures observed (Figure 1). At six weeks, radiographic assessment reveals promising progress in fracture healing, with 80% of cases showing evidence of healing and 60% achieving complete union (Table 2). There is a strong positive correlation between fracture severity and the time required for radiographic union, with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.65 (p < 0.001). Additionally, biomarkers of bone turnover exhibit a moderate positive correlation with radiological healing, with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.45 (p = 0.003) (Table 3). The study outcomes indicate that 80% of patients achieved a satisfactory outcome, while 20% required additional interventions. Among those needing further treatment, 10% underwent revision surgery, 5% received bone grafting, and another 5% required prolonged immobilization. Radiographic findings showed evidence of bone repair in 60% of cases and evidence of remodeling in 25%. However, 15% of patients showed no evidence of healing (Table 4).

Table 1: Severity of fracture and its locations

| Fracture Location | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Upper Extremities | 40% |
| Lower Extremities | 30% |
| Axial Skeleton | 30% |

Table 2: Radiological evaluation of fracture patients

| Radiographic Healing at six weeks | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Evidence of Healing | 80% |
| Complete Union | 60% |

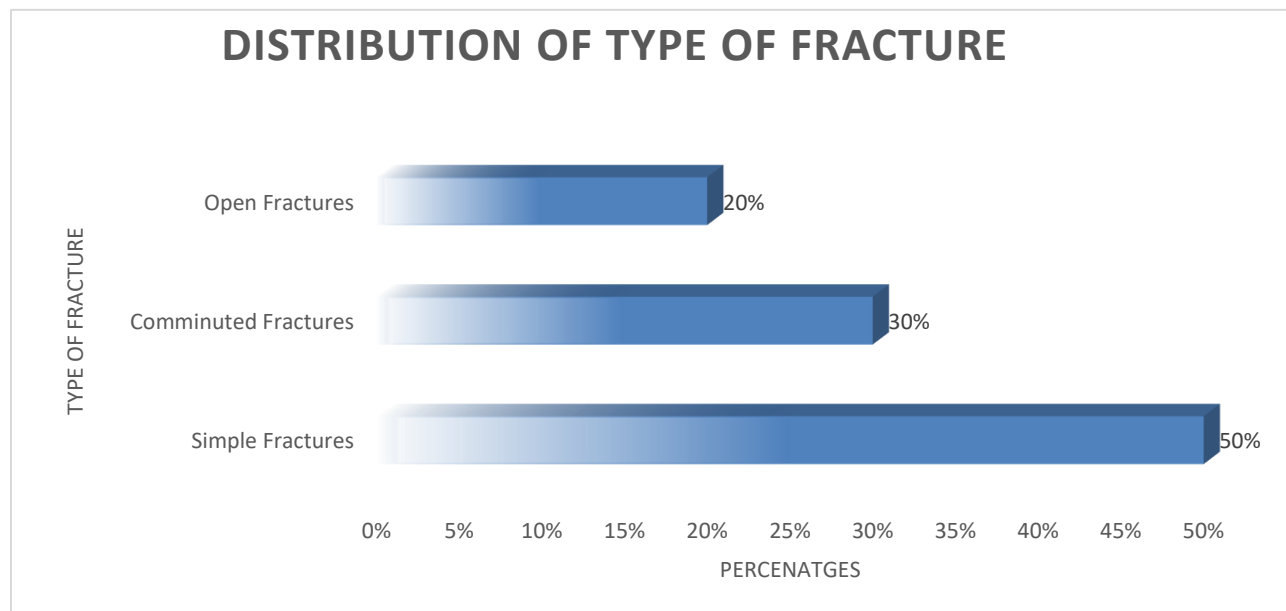


Figure 1: Distribution of type f fracture among study population

Table 03: Correlation in fracture and bone healing

| Variables | Correlation Coefficient (r) | p-value |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|
| Fracture Severity vs. Time to Radiographic Union | 0.65 | <0.001 |
| Biomarkers of Bone Turnover vs. Radiological Healing | 0.45 | 0.003 |

Table 04: Outcomes of orthopedic medicines

| Outcome | Percentage of Patients (%) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Satisfactory Outcome | 80% |
| Additional Interventions | 20% |
| - Revision Surgery | 10% |
| - Bone Grafting | 5% |
| - Prolonged Immobilization | 5% |
| Evidence of Bone Repair | 60% |
| Evidence of Remodeling | 25% |
| No Evidence of Healing | 15% |

Discussion

This study highlights orthopedic intervention outcomes in patients with bone fractures, offering insights into treatment effectiveness and challenges in achieving successful bone healing and function restoration. 80% of patients experienced satisfactory outcomes post-intervention, indicating successful bone healing and functional restoration. This underscores the efficacy of standard treatment protocols in promoting bone regeneration and facilitating recovery (Girón et al., 2021; Palanisamy et al., 2022). However, 20% required additional interventions, like revision surgery or bone grafting, highlighting the complexity of fracture management and the need for personalized treatment strategies (Pereira et al., 2020). Significant proportions of patients (60%) showed proof of bone repair, flagging continuous recovery. However, just 25% showed redesigning, proposing more slow recuperating or diligent primary difficulties (Armiento et al., 2020). This highlights the significance of continuous observation of mediations considering factors like fracture seriousness and patient qualities. The human skeletal framework is a durable structure supporting the body's organs and tissues (Zhou et al., 2021). Indispensable organs like the mind and spinal line track down security inside bone designs like the skull and vertebrae, while muscles are moored to the skeleton, working with development. The body skeleton adjusts as needed as the body develops a corresponding turn of events. Past underlying scaffolding and insurance, the skeletal framework teams up with joints and muscles to work with development and carries out fundamental roles like platelet creation, mineral capacity, and endocrine guidelines. Throughout the framework, it experiences significant actual anxieties, making it powerless to wounds and problems (Allan et al., 2021). However, the body possesses remarkable mechanisms for bone adaptation and regeneration. For instance, bone strength can increase in response to weight gain or physical training, and fractured bones often heal into standard functionality with minimal intervention. Nevertheless, in cases where healing is compromised, which occurs in 5–10% of cases, the associated economic and health burdens are considerable (Stahl and Yang, 2021). According to the Global Burden of Disease study (2013), musculoskeletal conditions like arthritis and back pain affect over 1.7 billion individuals worldwide. These conditions rank as the primary cause of

years lived with disability in 86 countries and as the second or third leading cause in 67 countries (Battafarano et al., 2021).

Conclusion

It is concluded that orthopedic interventions demonstrate a high success rate in achieving satisfactory outcomes, with most patients experiencing successful bone healing and restoration of function. There are several pathways and medicines through which bone can heal, yet the unique attribute of bone repair is that it occurs without developing a fibrous scar. This designates the process of fracture healing as a form of tissue regeneration.

Declarations

Data Availability statement

All data generated or analyzed during the study are included in the manuscript.

Ethics approval and consent to participate.

Approved by the department Concerned.

Consent for publication

Approved

Funding

Not applicable

Conflict of interest

The authors declared an absence of conflict of interest.

Authors Contribution

QURAT UL AIN KHAN

Concept & Design of Study, Final Approval of version

FARAH MALIK

Drafting, revision of manuscript

SYEDA ANDLEEB ZEHRANAQVI

Revisiting Critically, and drafting

TANZEELA KAUSAR

Data Analysis, and compilation of results

TAUSEEF RAZA& AFSHEEN MANSOOR

Review the whole draft

References

[Citation: Khan, Q.U.A., Malik, F., Naqvi, S.A.Z., Kausar, T., Raza .T., Mansoor, A. (2024). The anatomy of bone healing: bone regeneration in orthopedic medicine *Biol. Clin. Sci. Res. J.*, 2024: 754. doi: <https://doi.org/10.54112/bcsrj.v2024i1.754>]

- Allan, B., Ruan, R., Landao-Bassonga, E., Gillman, N., Wang, T., Gao, J., Ruan, Y., Xu, Y., Lee, C., and Goonewardene, M. (2021). Collagen membrane for guided bone regeneration in dental and orthopedic applications. *Tissue Engineering Part A* **27**, 372-381.
- Armiento, A. R., Hatt, L. P., Sanchez Rosenberg, G., Thompson, K., and Stoddart, M. J. (2020). Functional biomaterials for bone regeneration: a lesson in complex biology. *Advanced Functional Materials* **30**, 1909874.
- Bahney, C. S., Zondervan, R. L., Allison, P., Theologis A., Ashley, J. W., Ahn, J., Miclau, T., Marcucio R. S., and Hankenson, K. D. (2019). Cellular biology of fracture healing. *Journal of Orthopaedic Research* **37**, 35-50.
- Battafarano, G., Rossi, M., De Martino, V., Marampon, F., Borro, L., Secinaro, A., and Del Fattore, A. (2021). Strategies for bone regeneration: from graft to tissue engineering. *International journal of molecular sciences* **22**, 1128.
- Gao, F., Lv, T.-R., Zhou, J.-C., and Qin, X.-D. (2018). Effects of obesity on the healing of bone fracture in mice. *Journal of orthopaedic surgery and research* **13**, 1-8.
- Ghiasi, M. S., Chen, J., Vaziri, A., Rodriguez, E. K., and Nazarian, A. (2017). Bone fracture healing in mechanobiological modeling: A review of principles and methods. *Bone reports* **6**, 87-100.
- Girón, J., Kerstner, E., Medeiros, T., Oliveira, L., Machado, G., Malfatti, C., and Pranke, P. (2021). Biomaterials for bone regeneration: An orthopedic and dentistry overview. *Brazilian Journal of Medical and Biological Research* **54**, e11055.
- Go, Y. Y., Mun, J. Y., Chae, S.-W., Kim, S. H., Song, H., and Song, J.-J. (2018). Engineering functional BMP-2 expressing teratoma-derived fibroblasts for enhancing osteogenesis. *Scientific reports* **8**, 14581.
- Kim, T., See, C. W., Li, X., and Zhu, D. (2020). Orthopedic implants and devices for bone fractures and defects: Past, present and perspective. *Engineered Regeneration* **1**, 6-18.
- Liu, Y.-z., Akhter, M. P., Gao, X., Wang, X.-y., Wang, X.-b., Zhao, G., Wei, X., Wu, H.-j., Chen, H., and Wang, D. (2018). Glucocorticoid-induced delayed fracture healing and impaired bone biomechanical properties in mice. *Clinical interventions in aging*, 1465-1474.
- Palanisamy, P., Alam, M., Li, S., Chow, S. K., and Zheng, Y. P. (2022). Low-Intensity Pulsed Ultrasound Stimulation for Bone Fractures Healing: A Review. *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine* **41**, 547-563.
- Pereira, H. F., Cengiz, I. F., Silva, F. S., Reis, R. L., and Oliveira, J. M. (2020). Scaffolds and coatings for bone regeneration. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine* **31**, 1-16.
- Sheen, J. R., Mabrouk, A., and Garla, V. V. (2023). Fracture healing overview. In "StatPearls [Internet]". StatPearls Publishing.
- Stahl, A., and Yang, Y. P. (2021). Regenerative approaches for the treatment of large bone defects. *Tissue Engineering Part B: Reviews* **27**, 539-547.
- Zhou, J., Zhang, Z., Joseph, J., Zhang, X., Ferdows, B. E., Patel, D. N., Chen, W., Banfi, G., Molinaro, R., and Cosco, D. (2021). Front Cover: Biomaterials and nanomedicine for bone regeneration: Progress and future prospects (EXP2 2/2021). In "Exploration", Vol. 1, pp. 20210320. Wiley Online Library.



Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. © The Author(s) 2023