SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF FRACTURES IN BIRDS - A REVIEW OF EIGHT CASES

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Eight clinical cases of fractures in birds reported to Small Animal Orthopaedic Unit, Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital, Chennai with fractures involved in pectoral and pelvic girdle
were treated surgically with various skeletal fixation techniques. The major aetiology reported in all the cases were trauma with ceiling fan during their flight. The clinical signs noticed were non-weight bearing on affected limb or dropped wing, pain and crepitus. Under general anaesthesia with isoflurane, open reduction and internal and external skeletal techniques were attempted. Surgical correction with intramedullary pining (IMP) with K-wire of sizes from 1 to 1.4 mm and 22 G hypodermic needle were used for stabilization of fracture of tibio-tarsus in one barn owl and in four Alexander parrots and IMP with 1.2mm K-wire for a femur fracture in a parakeet. In one Aseel bird, IMP along with cerclage wiring was done for stabilisation of fracture of humerus and external skeletal fixator type II was applied for stabilization of corrective osteotomy of tibio-tarsus in an African Grey parrot. Postoperatively, after 24 hours, all birds had normal weight-bearing with or without reduced wing drop and in three weeks, minimum callus with uneventful recovery after one month was noticed.