Open reduction and internal fixation of mandibular condylar fractures 

A national inpatient sample analysis, 2005–2014

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to compare outcomes of open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) versus closed reduction (CR) for mandibular condylar fractures.

Patients included in the National Inpatient Sample (NIS) database (2005–2014) who were admitted to the hospital for unilateral mandibular condylar fracture were included in the analysis. Patient characteristics and clinical outcomes were compared between those who received ORIF and those receiving CR. Logistic regression analysis was performed to estimate odds ratios (ORs) for each aspect of the main observed events.

NIH data of 12,303 patients who underwent ORIF and 4310 patients who underwent CR were analyzed. Compared to CR, ORIF had an increased risk of longer hospital stay (adjusted OR [aOR]=1.78, 95% confidence intervals [CIs]=1.51–2.09), higher total medical cost (aOR=2.57, 95% CI=2.17–3.05), and hematoma development (aOR=10.66, 95% CI=1.43–75.59), but had a lower risk of having wound complications (aOR=0.86, 95% CI=0.79–0.93).

Patients with mandibular condylar fractures who receive ORIF have greater risk of having an extended hospital stay, higher total medical costs, and hematoma development but lower risk of experiencing wound complications compared to those who receive CR.

Abbreviations: CIs = confidence intervals, CR = closed reduction, HCUP = Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, ICD-9-CM = International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, NIS = National Inpatient Sample, ORIF = open reduction and internal fixation, ORs = odds ratios, TMJ = temporomandibular joint.

Keywords: closed reduction, mandibular fracture, open reduction

1. Introduction

Mandibular fractures are the most common facial fracture.[1] Mandibular condylar fractures are the most common mandibular fractures, with an overall incidence of 18% to 57%, and incidence of 24% to 72% in children.[2–4] Mandible fractures are more common in males,[3] and common causes of traumatic facial injury include motor vehicle accidents, violence, sports-related trauma, falls, and industrial incidents.[2–3]

As children may sustain minimal condylar process fractures, and because they have an increased ability for bone regeneration and remodeling, numerous studies have reported favorable results following closed reduction (CR) in children.[4] CR is mostly performed by stabilizing the fracture site using a lingual splint and circummandibular wires, interarch fixation with arch bars or interdental fixation, or maxillomandibular fixation.[4,6] However, totally displaced or commuted fractures may require open fixation and internal fixation (ORIF) to obtain optimal realignment.[2,4,7]

Nevertheless, the optimal treatment of mandibular condylar fractures is still debatable.[1,8–13] No general consensus has been reached regarding the clinical indications of ORIF and CR, except that adults with bilateral condylar fractures, including displacement or moderate to severe unilateral displacement with a dislocated condylar neck, may benefit from ORIF.[14–16] Advocates for conservative treatment cite the safety of CR, especially for avoiding surgical complications, but others prefer surgery for quick restoration of function.[1,17] Some studies have indicated that the 2 approaches produce equivalent outcomes, whereas other studies report that ORIF results in greater mobility, a lower incidence of malocclusion incidence, and earlier restoration of function.[4,17–19] Kotrashetti et al have indicated that an equal number of studies support ORIF and CR.[17] However, ORIF is more technically demanding and is associated with certain postoperative complications.[20] Recent meta-analyses favor ORIF over CR with respect to mobility, malocclusion, pain, and chin deviation on mouth opening, but ORIF is associated with a higher risk of infection.[8,12,21]

Thus, the purpose of this study was to compare outcomes of ORIF and CR for the treatment of mandibular condylar fractures.
using patient data from the large population-based National Inpatient Sample (NIS) database (2005–2014). The effectiveness of ORIF and CR was evaluated based on length of hospital stay, total medical costs, malocclusion, postoperative infection, hematoma development, and wound complications.

2. Methods

2.1. Study population

This cross-sectional study included all patients who were admitted to a hospital for treatment of unilateral mandibular condylar fracture identified in the 2005 to 2014 NIS database. The NIS is the most extensive all-payer database in the United States, and is maintained by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as part of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). Data available in the NIS include admission diagnosis, demographic characteristics, procedures explicitly performed during that admission, comorbidities, a disease severity evaluation, and costs.

2.2. Ethical considerations

Because the NIS originally received permission from all patients to participate in data collection, and patient data in the NIS database were deidentified, secondary analysis of the NIS data did not require institutional review board approval or the participants’ signed informed consent. This study obtained the certificate number, HCUP-842GUR29I, and conforms to the data-use agreement of the NIS of the HCUP.

2.3. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inpatients with an International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) diagnostic code indicating a mandibular fracture (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification [ICD-9-CM] code 80220–80237) and treated with open reduction/ORIF (code 7676) or CR (code 7675) for mandibular fractures were included.

Patients with bilateral mandibular condylar fractures were excluded to eliminate the possibility of including the same patient who might have undergone two different surgical treatments (ie, one procedure on each side). In addition, patients who had undergone both ORIF and CR were excluded. Additional exclusion criteria included polytrauma cases (defined as an additional fracture outside the mandible), severe respiratory distress requiring intubation, a concurrent neurological injury with an altered mental status, being comatose, or having an intracranial hemorrhage. Patients >88 years of age were excluded, and if specific demographic information such as sex, race, annual income, and insurance type was missing, then these patients were also excluded.

3. Study design

The design of the NIS changed over time. Between 2005 and 2011, NIS data included all discharges from a sample of 20% of acute-care hospitals in the United States; from 2012 to 2014 it included a sample of 20% of all discharges from United States hospitals, stratified by hospital, census division, ownership status, urban versus rural location, teaching status, and bed size. For all patient-level analyses, the newly developed trend weight by the NIS was used. From 1993 to 2012, the original discharge weight was used to facilitate the patient-level trend analysis. Hospital-level trend analysis was limited to 2005–2011 so that the sampling methodology would remain constant. In 2012, the NIS data lacked a sampling methodology for hospital-level trends, so the 20% fraction of patients extracted from each sampling hospital inevitably resulted in missing data.

3.1. Variable definitions

Patient demographic data examined included age, sex, race, annual household income, and insurance type. Race was defined as white, black, and others. Annual income was categorized into quartiles. Insurance types included Medicare/Medicaid, private, and self-pay/others/no charge.

Patient comorbidities were identified using either the Chronic Comorbidity Indicator provided by the NIS, or the following ICD-9-CM codes: alcohol abuse (CM_ALCOHOL), diabetes (CM_DM), and hypertension (CM_HTN_C). For hospital-level characteristics, we analyzed the number of hospitals treating patients with ORIF, ORIF procedures per hospital (median), bed size (small, medium, or large), teaching hospital, ownership (government, private nonprofit, or private for-profit), and hospitals in urban locations. Patient-level outcomes were total hospital cost, length of stay, and postoperative complications.

3.2. Statistical analysis

Categorical variables were summarized as frequencies and weighted percentages, and the mean and standardized error of the mean were presented for continuous variables. Tests for distributions of factors between the ORIF and CR groups were performed using a Rao-Scott $\chi^2$ test for categorical variables. An analysis of variance was performed for continuous variables. A logistic regression model was used to estimate the odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the main observed events in the study. Other than operation type, factors that were significant in the univariate model were included in a multiple regression model. A 2-tailed value of $P<.05$ was considered significant. All analyses were performed using SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

4. Results

A study population selection flowchart is shown in Figure 1. A total of 16,613 patients hospitalized for unilateral mandibular fractures were identified in the 2005 to 2011 NIS database and included in the analysis. A total of 12,303 patients underwent ORIF and 4310 patients underwent CR.

The demographic characteristics, comorbidities, and hospitalization data of the patients are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Of the total patients, 13,762 were male (82.83%). No differences were found in admission year between patients who underwent ORIF and those who underwent CR ($P=.28$). During the study period, the ratio of ORIF to CR ranged from 2.39 to 3.30 and no dramatic alterations were noted. More females received CR than ORIF (21.38% vs 15.68%, respectively; $P<.0001$). Patients in the ORIF group were older than those in the CR group ($32.54 \pm 0.16$ vs $30.25 \pm 0.27$ years, respectively; $P<.0001$). Other between-group differences are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Regarding the hospital-level analyses for hospitals in which patients underwent the procedures, differences were demonstrated in distributions of annual ORIF count ($P=.0002$), bed size
Length of hospital stay (3.73 ± 0.08 vs 2.70 ± 0.07, respectively; \( P < .0001 \)) and total medical costs ($51,145 ± $1094.59 vs $32,091 ± $765.47, respectively; \( P < .0001 \)) were significantly higher in the ORIF group than in the CR group (Table 3). The ORIF group had a lower probability of wound complications than the CR group (27.86% vs 31.12%, respectively; \( P = .0002 \)).

Results of univariate logistic regression analysis are shown in Tables 4 and 5. Overall, the odds for length of hospital stay \( \geq 90 \)th percentile, total medical cost \( \geq 90 \)th percentile, and hematoma formation were higher in the ORIF group than in the CR group. In contrast, patients in the ORIF group had lower odds of wound complications (crude OR = 0.86, 95% CI = 0.79–0.93). Other significant associations are shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Results of multiple logistic regression analysis after adjusting for the significant factors in the univariate regression model are shown in Table 6. ORIF was associated with increased odds for a longer hospital stay (adjusted OR \([aOR] = 1.78, 95\% \ CI = 1.51–2.09\)), higher total medical costs \( (aOR = 2.57, 95\% \ CI = 2.17–3.05) \), and hematoma development \( (aOR = 10.66, 95\% \ CI = 1.43–75.59) \). However, ORIF was associated with lower odds of wound complications \( (aOR = 0.86, 95\% \ CI = 0.79–0.93) \).

### 5. Discussion

Results of the present cross-sectional study demonstrate that patients who undergo ORIF have an increased risk of longer hospital stays, higher medical costs, and hematoma development, but a lower risk of wound complications than patients who undergo CR. This may be an important finding in support of...
Better clinical and radiological results. Vesnaver et al. with displaced subcondylar fractures, ORIF was associated with both treatments having acceptable results. Among 21 patients with mandibular condylar fractures and demonstrated studies, Al-Moraissi et al. determined that patients treated with CR. Shiju et al. compared ORIF and CR in 50 randomized treatment.

decision making, as no consensus has been reached to date regarding the treatment of mandibular condylar fractures by open vs. CR.

Condylar fractures are the most common facial fracture, but great debate still exists regarding the most appropriate treatment. In a meta-analysis involving 23 published studies, Al-Moraissi et al. determined that patients treated with ORIF had less pain and improved occlusion than those treated with CR. Shiju et al. compared ORIF and CR in 50 randomized patients with mandibular condylar fractures and demonstrated that both treatments had acceptable results. Among 21 patients with displaced subcondylar fractures, ORIF was associated with better clinical and radiological results. Vesnaver et al. compared outcomes of patients with unilateral, extra-articular mandibular condyle fractures, treating 42 surgically and 20 conservatively. In that study, surgical management was associated with fewer ipsilateral chin deflections on mouth opening, smaller asymmetry of lateral movements and condylar motion, fewer occlusal disturbances, less facial asymmetry, faster chewing rehabilitation, and smaller bite force asymmetry between the injured and uninjured sides. However, no differences were found between the 2 groups in maximal mouth opening or joint pain.

Table 1
Baseline characteristics of patients hospitalized for mandibular fractures, 2005–2014.

| ORIF | CR | P     |
|------|----|-------|
| N=12303 | N=4310 |      |
| Weighted | Weighted |      |
| N=60,930 (%) | N=21,441 (%) |      |

Admission year
2005 1017 (8.01) 425 (9.68) 0.28
2006 1137 (9.11) 428 (10.06)
2007 1149 (9.33) 412 (9.28)
2008 1167 (9.24) 425 (10.01)
2009 1211 (9.98) 425 (10.01)
2010 1530 (12.91) 502 (11.98)
2011 1231 (9.73) 407 (9.11)
2012 1381 (11.33) 419 (9.77)
2013 1264 (10.37) 402 (9.37)
2014 1216 (9.98) 427 (9.96)

Female 1931 (15.68) 920 (21.38) <.0001
Age, y 32.54 ± 3.05 30.25 ± 2.27 <.0001
Race
White 6135 (49.88) 2290 (53.96) .007
Black 3514 (28.72) 1158 (27.10)
Others 3574 (29.34) 1306 (29.95)

Annual income
Q1 5091 (41.46) 1602 (37.16) <.0001
Q2 2927 (23.74) 1058 (24.44)
Q3 2451 (19.88) 910 (21.09)
Q4 1834 (14.92) 740 (17.31)

Primary payer
Medicare/Medicaid 3407 (27.84) 1228 (28.59) <.0001
Private including HMO 3620 (29.42) 1461 (33.90)
Self-pay/no charge/other 5276 (42.75) 1621 (37.52)

Comorbidities
Alcohol abuse 1954 (15.88) 573 (13.30) <.0001
Diabetes 425 (3.47) 140 (3.21) .43
Hypertension 1500 (12.30) 456 (10.52) .004

Continuous variables are presented as mean ± standard error; categorical variables are presented as number and weighted percentages.

Table 2
Baseline characteristics of patients hospitalized for mandibular fractures, 2005–2014.

| ORIF | CR | P     |
|------|----|-------|
| N=12303 | N=4310 |      |
| Weighted | Weighted |      |
| N=60,930 (%) | N=21,441 (%) |      |

Hospital-level analysis
Annual ORIF count 45.57 ± 4.63 32.59 ± 2.3 0.0002
Q1 2425 (19.67) 1335 (30.86) <.0001
Q2 3336 (27.17) 1090 (25.30)
Q3 3286 (26.87) 905 (21.30)
Q4 3256 (26.29) 960 (22.55)

Bed size
Small 595 (4.57) 291 (6.39) .0001
Median 2404 (19.58) 899 (20.97)
Large 9178 (74.84) 3104 (72.28)
Unknown 126 (1.01) 16 (0.36)

Hospital location and teaching status
Urban teaching 6356 (51.84) 2100 (49.26) <.0001
Urban non-teaching 1719 (13.53) 842 (18.92)
Rural 4228 (34.62) 1368 (31.81)

Ownership
Government 7039 (57.07) 2520 (58.60) .004
Private, non-profit 407 (3.28) 151 (3.40)
Private, for profit 407 (3.28) 151 (3.40)
Unknown 3967 (32.69) 1264 (29.46)

Hospital census region
Northeast 2776 (23.33) 1266 (30.46) <.0001
Midwest or North Central 1588 (13.02) 628 (14.79)
South 5411 (43.27) 1536 (34.80)
West 2528 (20.39) 880 (20.95)

CR = closed reduction, ORIF = open reduction and internal fixation. Categorical variables are presented as number and weighted percentages.

Table 3
Prognosis of patients hospitalized for mandibular fractures, 2005–2014.

| ORIF | CR | P     |
|------|----|-------|
| n=15,052 | n=4310 |      |
| Weighted | Weighted |      |
| N=74,539 (%) | N=21,441 (%) |      |

Length of stay, day
N 8437 3061
Mean ± SE 3.73 ± 0.08 2.70 ± 0.07 <.0001
≥90th percentile 1262 (15.26) 261 (6.47) <.0001

Total medical cost
N 12131 4270
mean ± SE $51,145 ± $1094.59 $32,091 ± $765.47 <.0001
≥90th percentile 1488 (12.34) 208 (4.88) <.0001
Malocclusion 359 (2.88) 118 (2.84) .92
Postoperative infection 19 (0.16) 2 (0.05) .10
Hematoma 29 (0.23) 1 (0.02) .003
Wound complications 3441 (27.96) 1343 (31.12) <.0001

CR = closed reduction, ORIF = open reduction and internal fixation. Continuous variables are presented as mean ± standard error; categorical variables are presented as number and percentages.

While recognizing that the management of mandibular condylar process fractures remains controversial, several recent studies have investigated whether ORIF or CR offers a more beneficial approach. In an evaluation of long-term outcomes of 21 pediatric patients with mono- and bicondylic fractures who received oral reduction and external fixation, good recovery was
reported in maximal mouth opening, lateral excrusion, and vertical height of ramus, and preinjury occlusion was restored in all patients.\textsuperscript{[23,24]} No permanent facial nerve palsy was noted, no referred pain or stiffness at the operative site and minimal scarring. The authors emphasized that good functionality of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) structures and the absence of scarring. The authors emphasized that good functionality of the referred pain or stiffness at the operative site and minimal displaced or dislocated, making surgical treatment still necessary. The authors noted that the functional treatment provided satisfactory clinical results but that ramus height could not easily be restored in fractures that were exceptionally displaced or dislocated, making surgical treatment still necessary.\textsuperscript{[24]} However, as in our study and those of other authors, overall results still supported the safety and efficacy of ORIF.

Garcia-Guerrero et al.\textsuperscript{[27]} reviewed the main intra- and postoperative complications in ORIF versus conservative treatment, finding that differences in asymmetry, residual pain, TMJ and articular imbalance, and malocclusion were minimal and infrequent. Facial nerve damage was only found in ORIF patients and complications of conservative treatment were associated with delayed mobilization and functional limitations. In the present study, patients in the ORIF group had significantly lower odds of wound complications than those receiving CR. In a 2015 study of open versus CR for bilateral condylar fractures, overall superior functional and radiographic outcomes were noted in the ORIF procedures compared to CR with intermaxillary fixation; 11 of 85 CR patients had persistent malocclusion, leading to additional orthognathic surgery and orthodontic treatment, which increased patient dissatisfaction.\textsuperscript{[28]}

Other previous meta-analyses also noted specific differences between ORIF and CR. Yao et al.\textsuperscript{[29]} included 13 studies with a total of 859 patients (409 received surgical treatment and 450 nonsurgical management), finding that maximal mouth opening of the surgical group was higher than that in the nonsurgical group, and at 1-year follow-up, the incidence of malocclusion in the surgical group was less than that in the nonsurgical group. No differences were found in the incidence of temporomandibular joint pain, facial symmetry, or mandibular activity between the 2

### Table 4

| Odds ratios for prognosis of patients hospitalized for mandibular fractures, 2005–2014. |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Length of stay ≥90% | Total medical cost ≥90% | Malocclusion |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Crude OR (95% CI) | Crude OR (95% CI) | Crude OR (95% CI) |
| ORIF vs CR | Male vs female | Age, y | Race (vs white) | Black | Others | Annual income (vs Q4) | Primary payer (vs private including HMO) | Medicare/medicaid | Self-pay/no charge/other | Comorbidities | Alcohol abuse | Diabetes | Hypertension |
| 1.95 (1.67–2.27)\textsuperscript{a} | 0.57 (0.49–0.65)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.03 (1.03–1.04)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.96 (0.81–1.13) | 0.99 (0.85–1.16) | 1.26 (1.04–1.53)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.11 (0.92–1.34) | 1.10 (0.90–1.36) | 1.61 (1.40–1.85)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.01 (0.86–1.19) | 1.87 (1.61–2.16)\textsuperscript{b} | 2.69 (2.29–3.65)\textsuperscript{b} | 2.57 (2.22–2.97)\textsuperscript{b} | Q1 | O2 | O3 | Q4 | Bed size (vs large) | Small | Median |
| 2.74 (2.32–3.24)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.79 (0.69–0.93) | 1.02 (1.02–1.03)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.78 (0.66–0.93) | 1.14 (0.96–1.36) | 0.80 (0.67–0.96)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.95 (0.67–1.14) | 0.86 (0.71–1.04) | 1.30 (1.13–1.50)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.73 (0.64–0.84)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.91 (1.68–2.18)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.73 (1.37–2.19)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.87 (1.64–2.15)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.39 (1.08–1.78)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.58 (1.26–1.98)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.48 (1.15–1.92)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.30 (1.04–1.62)\textsuperscript{b} |
| 1.02 (0.78–1.33) | 1.11 (0.86–1.44) | 0.99 (0.98–0.99)\textsuperscript{b} | 1.13 (0.90–1.42) | 0.98 (0.73–1.31) | 0.84 (0.62–1.13) | 1.05 (0.79–1.40) | 0.86 (0.64–1.17) | 1.04 (0.82–1.32) | 1.30 (1.04–1.62)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.97 (0.75–1.26) | 0.42 (0.20–0.89)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.84 (0.62–1.15) | 1.03 (0.76–1.40) | 1.39 (0.98–1.97) | 1.44 (0.96–2.15) |
| 0.47 (0.31–0.70)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.49 (0.36–0.68)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.67 (0.55–0.83)\textsuperscript{b} | 0.96 (0.72–1.29) | 0.84 (0.52–1.37) | 1.10 (0.80–1.51) | 1.19 (0.77–1.83) | 1.05 (0.65–1.69) |

\(\text{CI} = \text{confidence interval, CR} = \text{closed reduction, HMO} = \text{health maintenance organization, OR} = \text{odds ratio, ORIF} = \text{open reduction and internal fixation.}\)
groups. A 2015 meta-analysis that included 8 studies found better results for open treatment in terms of mouth opening, protrusion, laterotrusion, pain, and malocclusion.\(^{[21]}\) However, the authors noted that differences in study protocols and lack of information on classification, follow-up time, and inclusion criteria made direct comparison of the studies difficult. A more recent study of 15 condylar fracture patients treated with endoscopic-assisted ORIF reported notable gradual improvement in mean mouth opening at the end of 1 week, 6 weeks, and 6 months, with few complications and reduced immediate postoperative morbidity.\(^{[30]}\) The authors emphasized that the endoscopic ORIF procedure took longer and had an especially steep learning curve to master the challenging intraoperative technique, although they still recommended this alternative endoscopic procedure for its decrease in patient morbidity.

In addition, Wang et al.\(^{[31]}\) studied 547 patients with 654 condylar injuries to identify factors associated with the decision to perform ORIF. Approximately 21% of the patients received ORIF. Factors associated with an increased likelihood of performing ORIF were the presence of extracondylar mandibular injuries, condylar neck or subcondylar region injuries, increasing dislocation, and treatment by plastic and reconstructive surgeons or oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Patient selection appears to be a primary factor in decision-making between ORIF and CR.

New approaches have been explored as well. Seeking to develop a “safe, sound, and effective protocol for surgical management of mandibular subcondylar fractures under local anesthesia,” Howlader et al.\(^{[32]}\) assessed feasibility of this novel procedure in 7 patients, finding that the local anesthesia, along with adequate central muscle relaxation to reduce masticatory muscle spasm, contributed to conducting a safe, efficacious procedure with no major complications or long-term sequelae. The authors pointed out that general anesthesia, by contrast, is noted for greater metabolic stress and intraoperative blood loss compared to regional or local anesthesia, which have a lower incidence of nausea, vomiting, and procedural complications.

Regarding medical costs, a cross-sectional study using the 2009 NIS database and 1481 patients with isolated mandibular fractures\(^{[33]}\) reported that the average per-patient treatment cost was $35,804, and that patients with a history of mental illness, cardiovascular disease, increased age, and substance abuse had higher costs; most patients with an isolated mandibular fracture were hospitalized for 6 days, with additional costs of $5,987.

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Table 6

Multiple logistic model for prognosis of patients hospitalized for mandibular fractures, 2005-2014.

|                      | ORIF vs CR | Adjusted OR (95% CI) |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Length of stay, day ≥90th percentile | 1.78 (1.51–2.09)* |                      |
| Total medical cost ≥90th percentile | 2.57 (2.17–3.05)* |                      |
| Malocclusion | 1.02 (0.78–1.33)  |                      |
| Postoperative infection | 2.02 (0.60–12.41) |                      |
| Hematoma | 10.66 (1.43–79.59)** |                      |
| Wound complications | 0.86 (0.79–0.93)** |                      |

CI = confidence interval, CR = closed reduction, OR = odds ratio, ORIF = open reduction and internal fixation.
* P < .05.
** P < .001.
† Model adjusted for:
‡ Operation type, sex, age, annual income, primary payer, alcohol abuse, diabetes, hypertension, annual ORIF frequency, bed size, and hospital census region.
§ Operation type, sex, age, annual income, primary payer, alcohol abuse, diabetes, hypertension, annual ORIF frequency, bed size, hospital location and teaching status, ownership, and hospital census region.
¶ Operation type, age, primary payer, diabetes, bed size, and hospital census region.
** Operation type, sex, age, annual income, primary payer, alcohol abuse, diabetes, hypertension, annual ORIF frequency, bed size, hospital location and teaching status, ownership, and hospital census region.
†† Operation type, age, primary payer, diabetes, bed size, and hospital census region.
‡‡ Operation type, sex, age, annual income, primary payer, alcohol abuse, diabetes, hypertension, annual ORIF frequency, hospital location and teaching status, ownership, and hospital census region.

The lack of consensus between studies still does not allow recommendations for a “best approach” for treating condylar fractures. However, results of the present study may provide additional perspective regarding the ongoing dilemma of choosing between ORIF and CR for mandibular condylar fractures. Findings of this US NIS-based study need to be confirmed by population-based studies conducted in other countries, and more multicentric randomized controlled trials are needed to help develop standardized treatment protocols. In addition, large-scale cohort studies should be conducted to explore the long-term outcomes of open reduction and internal fixation in greater depth.

8. Conclusion

Analysis of the data of 16,613 patients hospitalized for unilateral mandibular fractures indicates that patients who undergo ORIF have an increased risk of a longer hospital stay, higher medical costs, and developing a hematoma, but have a lower risk of wound complications than patients who undergo CR.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: Shi-Jun Kuang, Zhi-Guang Zhang.
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