

Argus Orthopaedic Zone

What If Your Fracture Won't Heal?

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Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

Sorry to have to tell you this, but some fractures refuse to heal. It is true. Some factors known to impede fracture healing are smoking, diabetes and advanced age. Nature's healing of a fracture is tremendously complicated. Relax, I am not going to try to explain it here!

Healing of all fractures is a race between new bone forming to unite the fracture and scar tissue forming between the bone ends, which prevent new bone from bridging the fracture.

If after a certain period of time (different in various fractures and bones), I determine a fracture won't heal, my patients usually don't want to hear the S word - Surgery! Well, sometimes there is no other choice and it has to be an operation.

What Else Will Help?

What if I told you there is a device that is highly effective in getting difficult fractures to heal? There is. It is an Ultrasound bone healing system. I'm not surprised if you have never heard of it.

Ultrasound Bone Healing System

This system of treatment enhances and stimulates the complicated mechanism of bone healing. The fracture repair process may be divided into four stages.

- Inflammation
- Soft callus bone formation
- Hard callus which contains calcium
- Remodeling, the last stage which strengthens and reshapes the bone

What Does Ultrasound Do?

The ultrasound mechanical pressure waves go through skin and soft tissue to reach the injured bone. The ultrasound waves have a direct effect on the cells. The low intensity pulsed ultrasound signal activates the healing process. Take my word for it; it is an extremely complicated process.

How Is It Used?

A small circular device is applied to your skin over the fracture for 20 minutes each day. If you are wearing a cast a window is cut in the cast over the fracture. You feel nothing while it is operating. No pain, no heat is felt.

When Is Ultrasound Used?

It can be used at any stage of a fracture and is beneficial to healing. However, because it is very expensive most insurance carriers

won't cover it in the first 90 days. The carriers want to see if the fracture will begin to heal naturally.

Results

86% of patients with slow or non-healing fractures go on to heal using the ultrasound bone healing system. There are no known risks or side effects. It can take three to four months or longer using the ultrasound bone healing system to heal fractures that have a delayed healing problem.

In Closing

This is not new technology. It has been around for many years. It is very different from the Electrical Stimulation of bone which is an even older technology.

I thought that my readers should be aware of it as a means of treating slow healing fractures without surgery. When it is appropriate to use this technology instead of surgery it is a decision that I must make as an Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Argus Orthopaedic Zone Archive and Office Website

The office website www.orthopodsurgeon.com and the Argus Orthopaedic Zone archive are your window to the Orthopaedic world! www.orthopodsurgeon.com contains

- The Website Library of Information
- Your Orthopaedic Connection
- Argus Orthopaedic Zone Archive

I urge you to log onto the website and check it all out. You will be amazed at all the useful information it contains.

The Argus Orthopaedic Zone archive contains the complete text of every article I have ever written for Shepherd Argus. Please check it out for interesting articles you may have missed.

I very much appreciate all of you loyal readers, patients and future patients. I am here for you in the office, in Argus Orthopaedic Zone and on the office website.

All of the information pertains to everything I treat in the office and hospital.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free, functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush