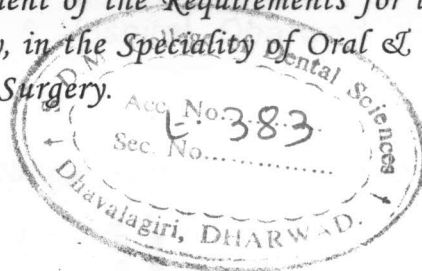


# RETROMANDIBULAR APPROACH TO CONDYLES - A CLINICAL AND CADAVERIC STUDY



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There can be few aspects of maxillofacial trauma management that generate more controversy than the management of a fracture involving the condylar process of the mandible.

Fractures of the mandibular condyle account for between 25% and 50% of all mandible fractures.

Between 48% and 66% of patients with condylar fractures also have a body or angle fracture.

Conservative treatment of condylar fractures in both adult and young has been for long the method of choice.

Despite advances in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery a pragmatic approach to the management of condylar fractures is lacking. The approaches are either based on theory or ideology.

Several issues could cloud decision making and therefore the clinician is apt to take the more "safe" option. Reasons for such practice could be that conservative management of condylar fractures has shown good results in most patients, secondly surgical procedures in the temporomandibular joint area may result in complications involving the facial nerve, third technical problems may exist in manipulating the fracture segments into good anatomic position because of comminution, fragment size or fracture characteristics. Fourthly open reduction leaves a