

Approach to patient with pelvic ring injury

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Learning outcome

- Discuss option of hemodynamic instability assessment and management in pelvic fracture patients.
- How to do proper image assessment in pelvic fractures
- Definitive fixation, when and how.

Case scenario

- 58-year-old man
- Hay farmer
- Previously healthy
- Elevated BMI
- Horse spooked and he is bucked off



Trauma Bay

- Awake and responsive
- Airway: normal
- Breathing: normal
- Circulation:
 - Heart Rate: 130
 - BP: 90/50
- FAST: Negative

- **Discussion points**

1. Is the patient in shock
2. What investigation to do
3. Discuss pelvic instability assessment ?

Clinical assessment, Pelvic instability testing

- Gentle, manual pelvic exam.
- Associated with risk of pelvic bleeding.
- Miss more than 65% of radiographically unstable fractures.
- **Without therapeutic relevance.**

Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg
DOI 10.1007/s00068-017-0860-0



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Diagnostics and early treatment in prehospital and emergency-room phase in suspicious pelvic ring fractures

Conclusion Testing of mechanical stability of the pelvic ring was carried out less often and with lower consequences for the actual management than expected. It seems worthwhile to rather put on a pelvic binder at earliest occasion based on trauma mechanism or clinical findings to reduce the risk of serious pelvic bleeding.

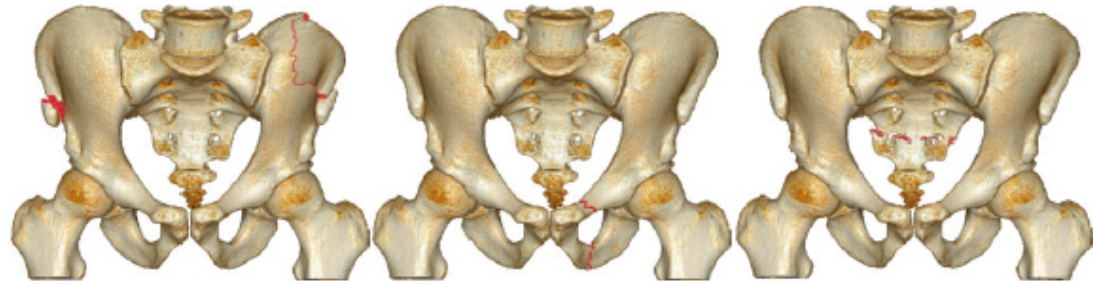


- **Discussion points**

1. Is this x ray adequate
2. Discuss x ray findings
3. Classification.

Tile classification

- **Stability based classification**

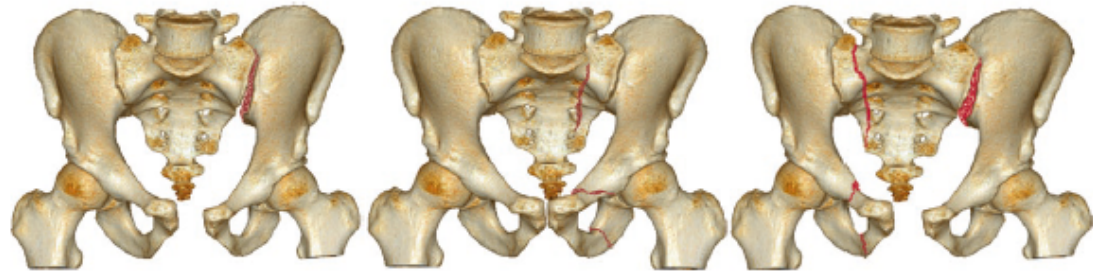


a1

a2

a3

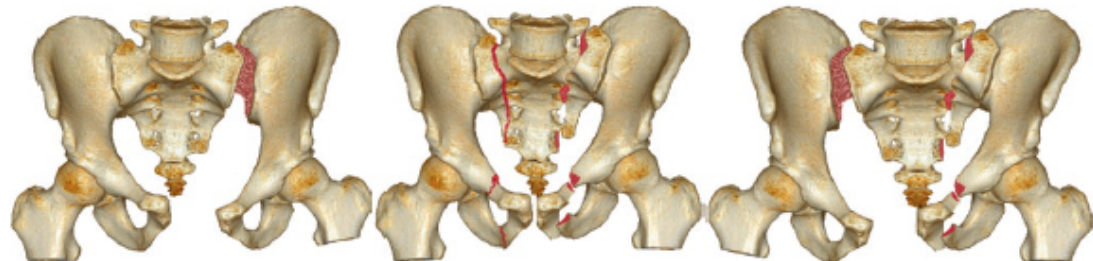
- **Based mainly on posterior structure integrity**



b1

b2

b3



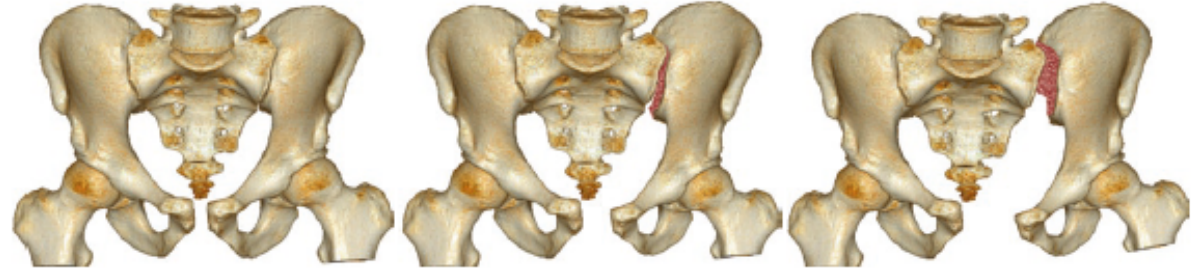
c1

c2

c3

Young Burgess

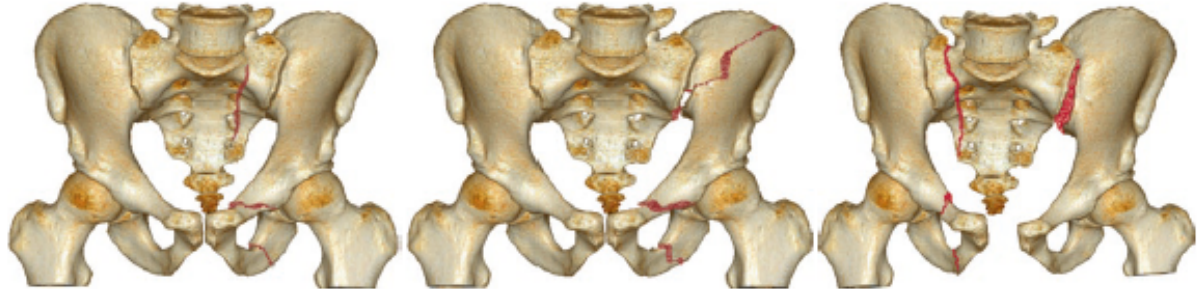
- Based on direction of force, APC, LC, VS, CM.



APC 1

APC 2

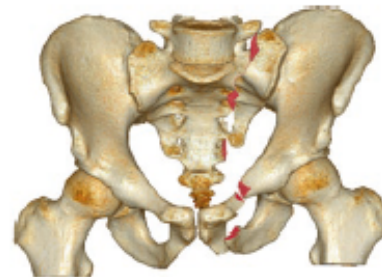
APC 3



LC 1

LC 2

LC 3

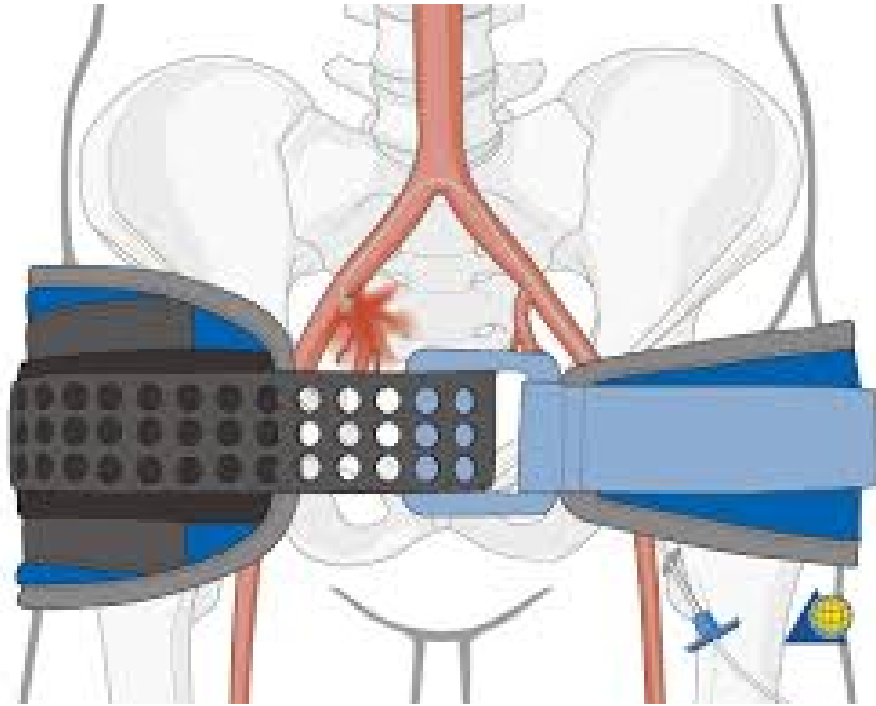


VS

What to do now ?

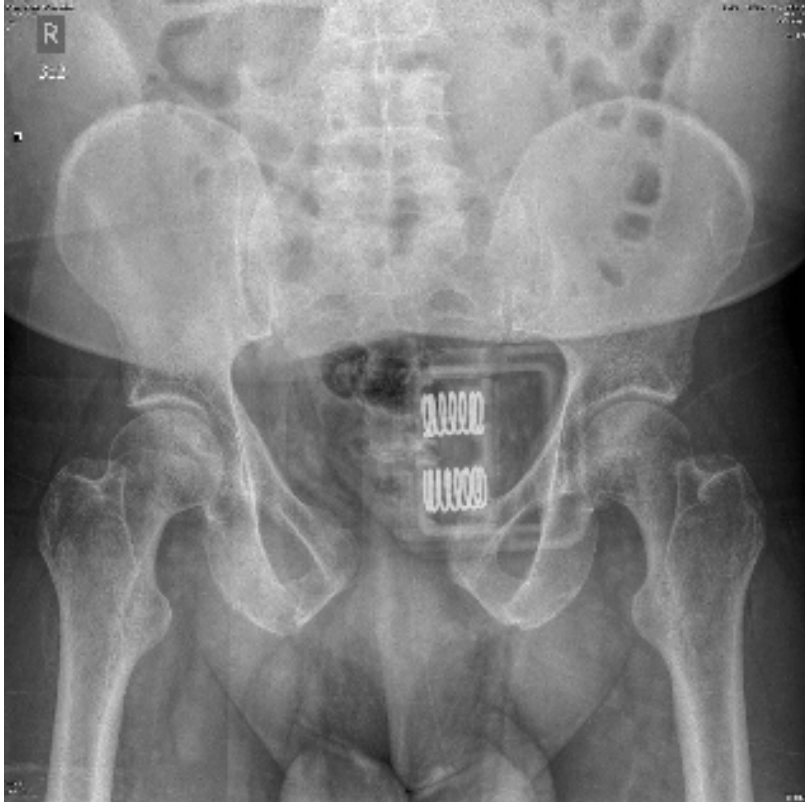


Pelvic Binders



- **Discussion points**

1. Discuss proper binder application.
2. Effect of binder on hemostasis and subsequent radiographic studies.



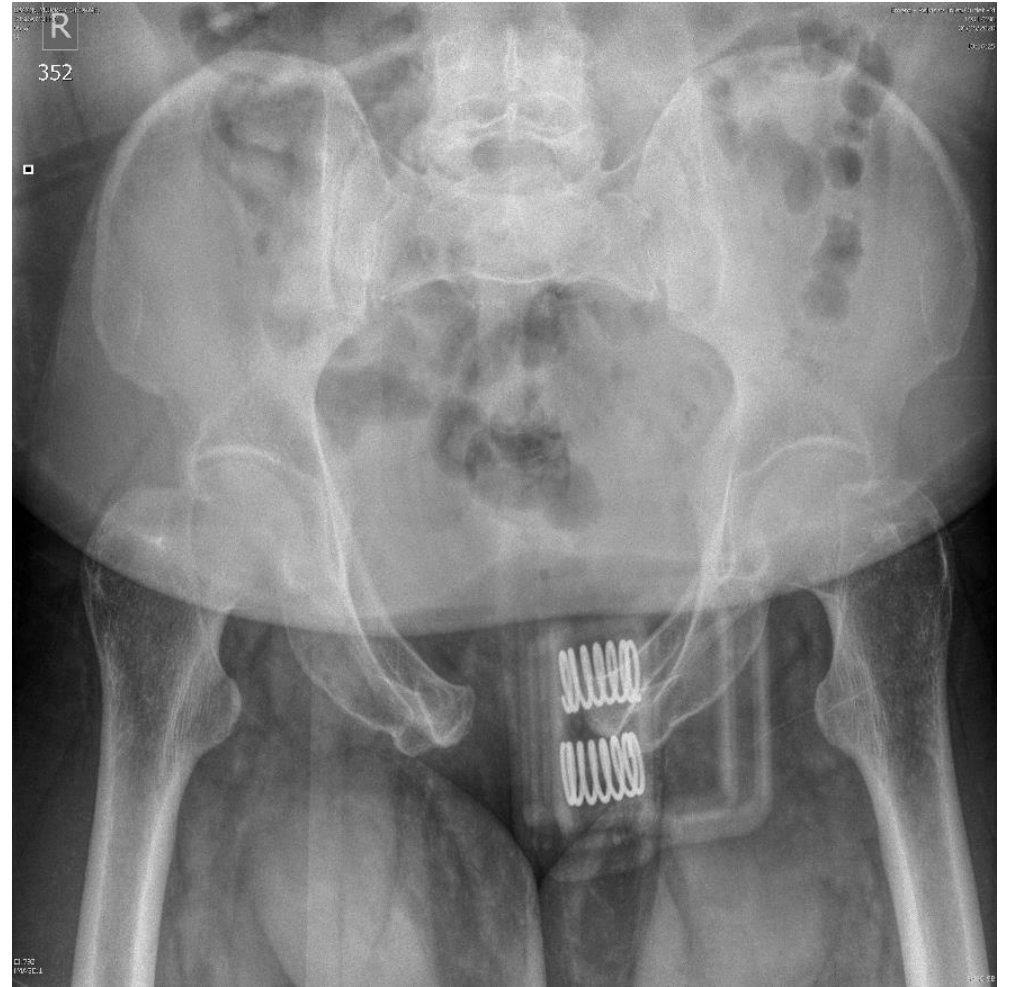
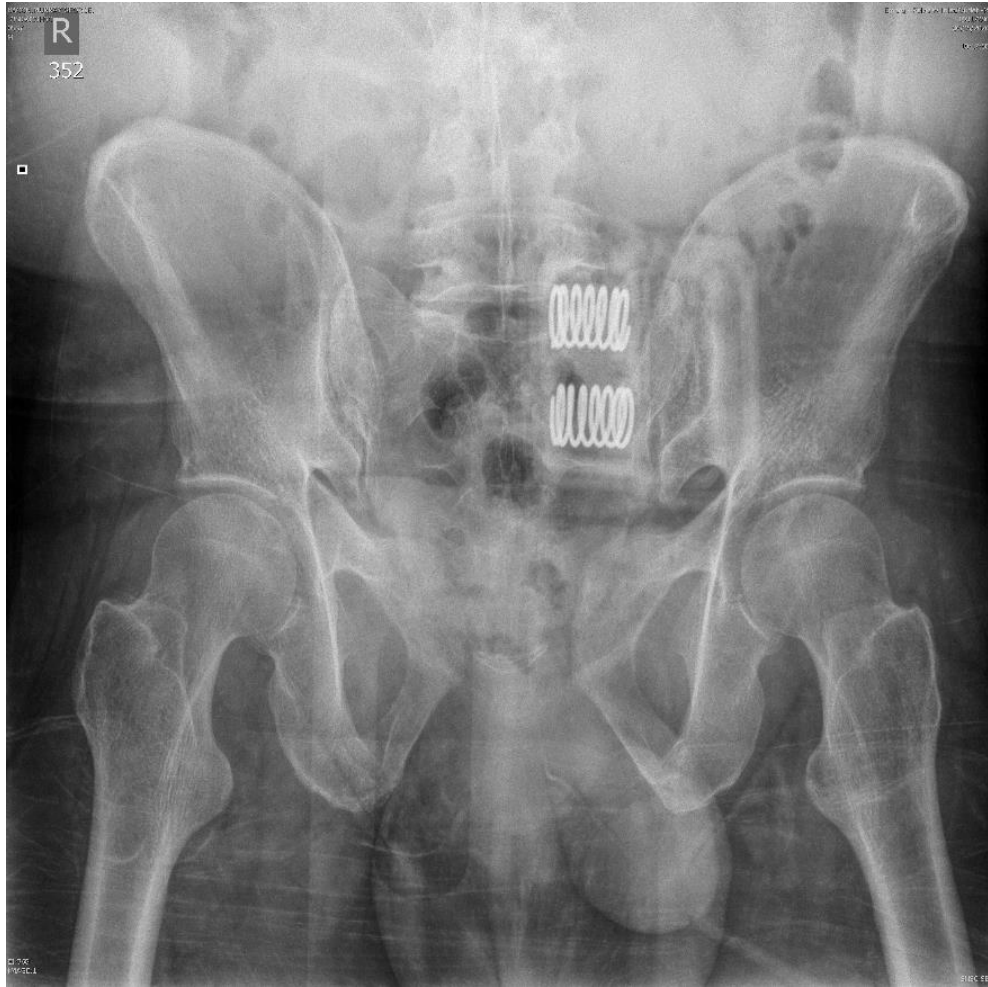
- **Discussion points**

1. Post binder,

what's your expectation regarding vital signs.

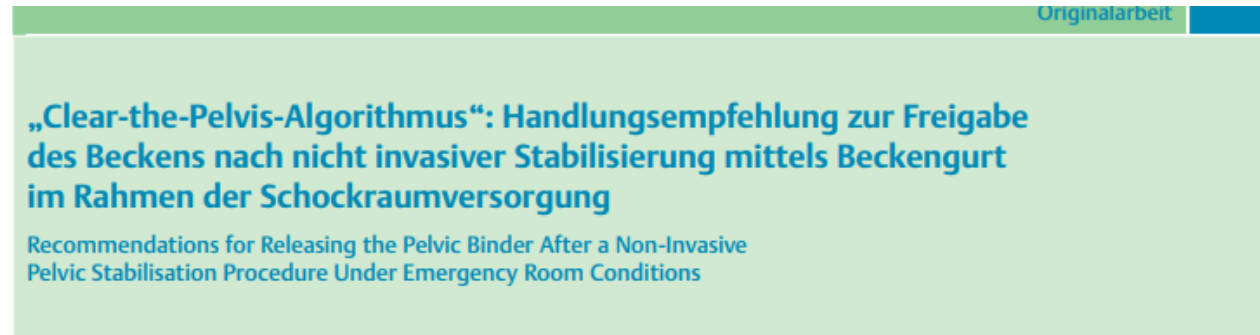
What's about x ray

2. Misleading finding



Pelvic binder

- Ideal position to be applied over the GT.
- Improper application lead to delayed hmg control.
- Uncritical use should be avoided.
- Binder effect on radiographic study.



The value of ‘binder-off’ imaging to identify occult and unexpected pelvic ring injuries





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Injury

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/injury



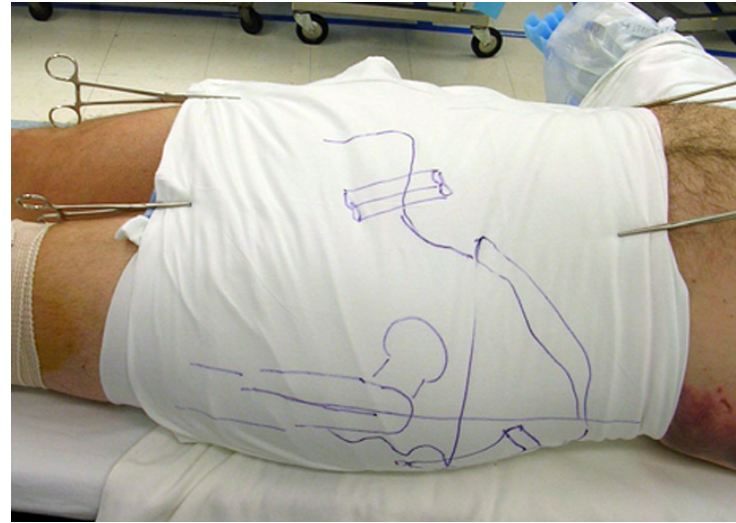
The value of ‘binder-off’ imaging to identify occult and unexpected pelvic ring injuries



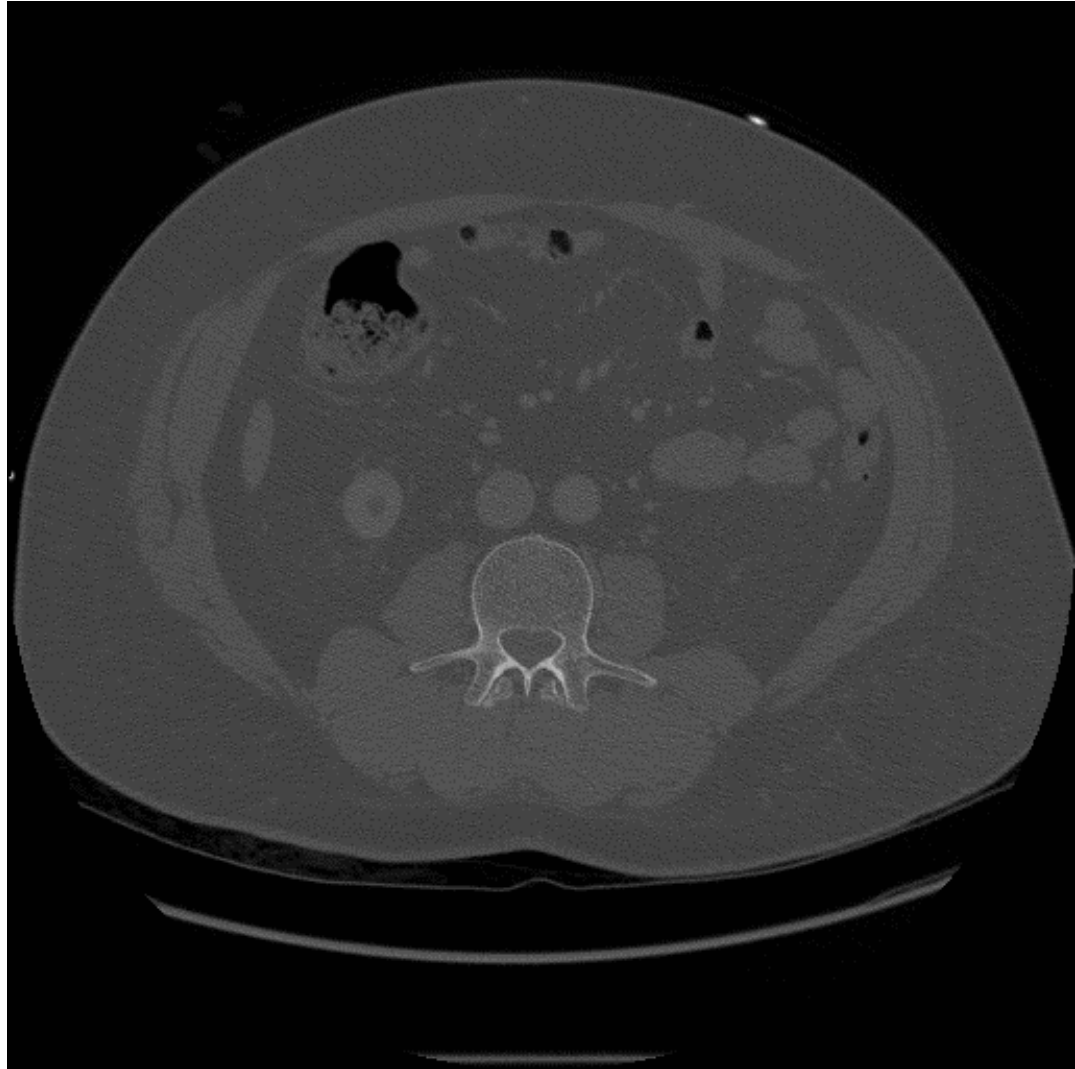
Conclusions: Trauma CT imaging of the pelvis with a pelvic binder in place is inadequate at excluding unstable pelvic ring injuries, and, based on the original findings in this paper, we recommend additional plain film ‘binder-off’ radiographs, when there is any clinical concern.

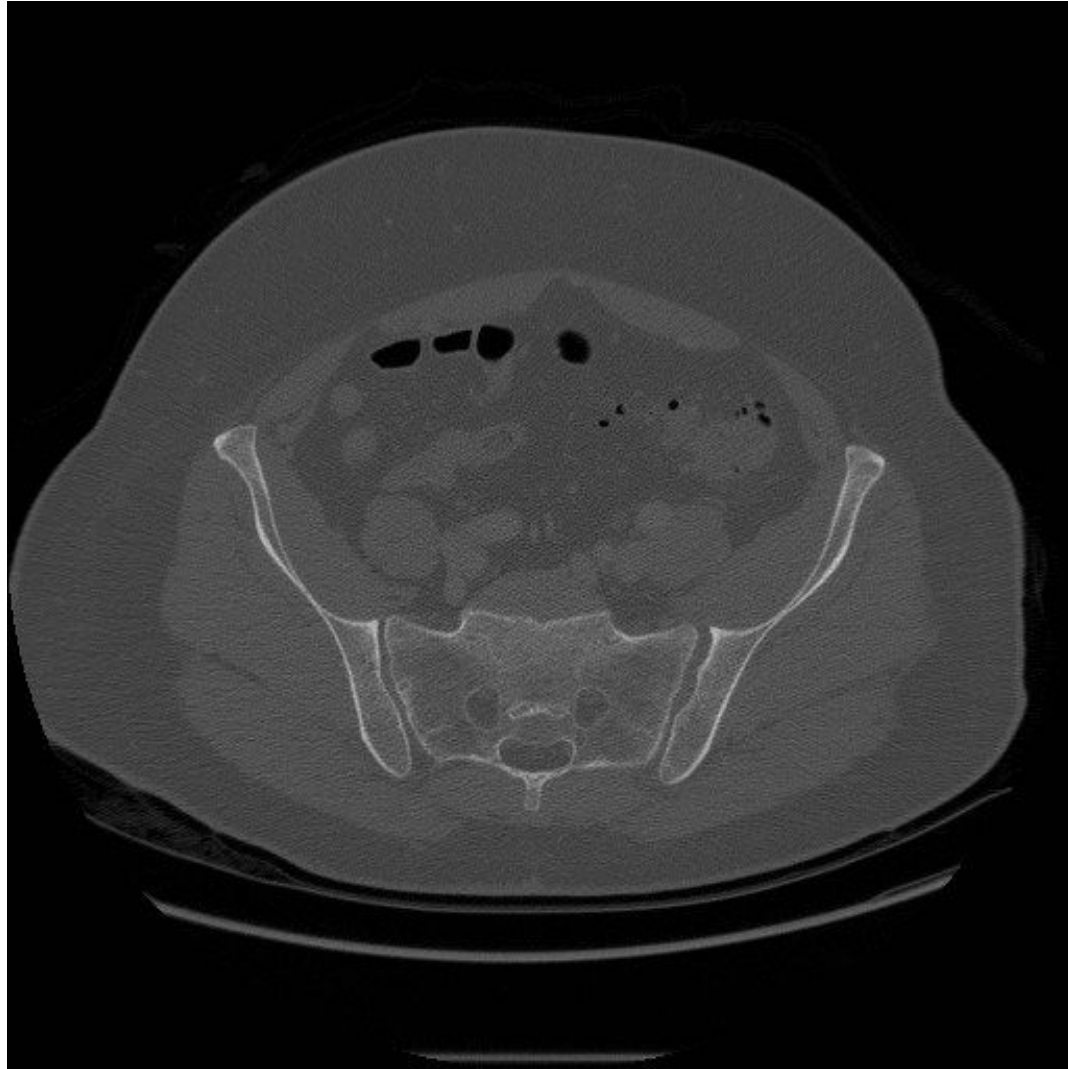
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Pelvic binder/ sheet



- Responds to pelvic Binder and Blood transfusion
- HR: 90
- BP: 135/90









Other option for achieving pelvic stability

- Mechanical stabilization of pelvic ring

1. Pelvic c clamp

2. Pelvic external fixators

- For better hemodynamic stabilization

- **Stop the bleed.**

1. Pelvic packing.

2. Angioembolization.

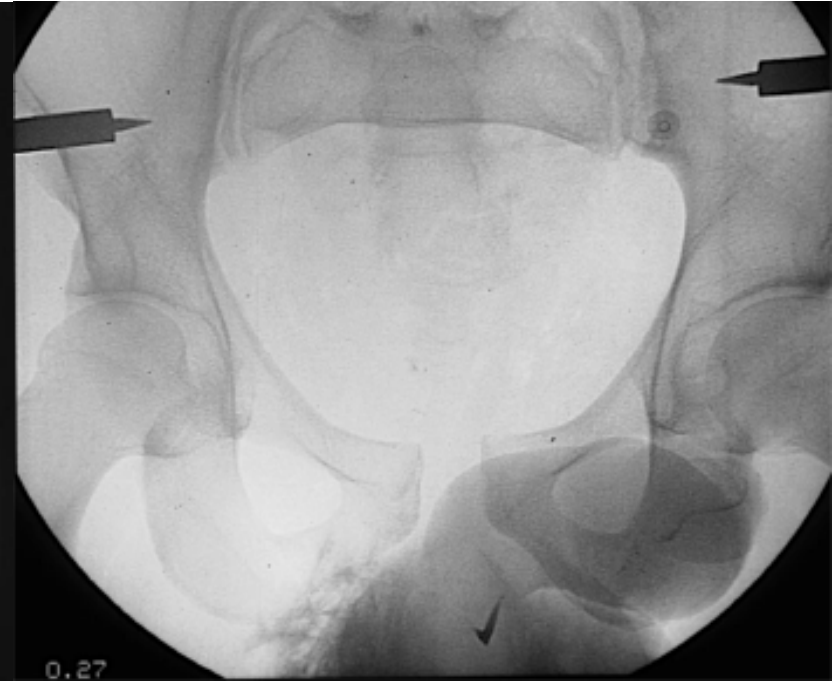
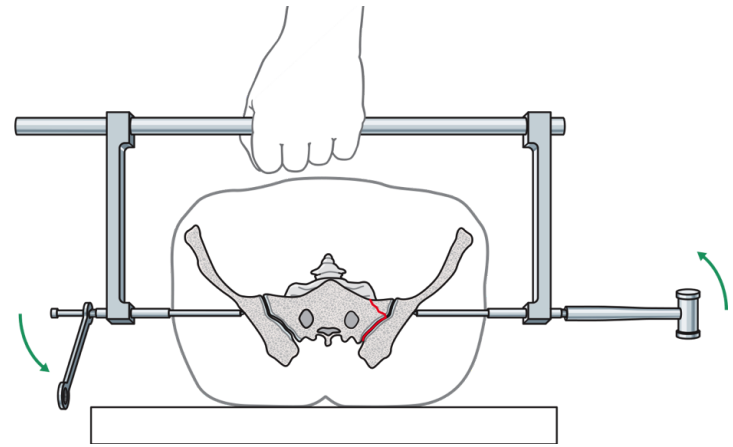
Pelvic C clamp

- The World Society of Emergency Surgery recommendation 2017.
- Recommended in patient in **Extremis** and those who need pelvic packing
- Need experience.
- Some modification of its application to GT or Supraacetabular area.



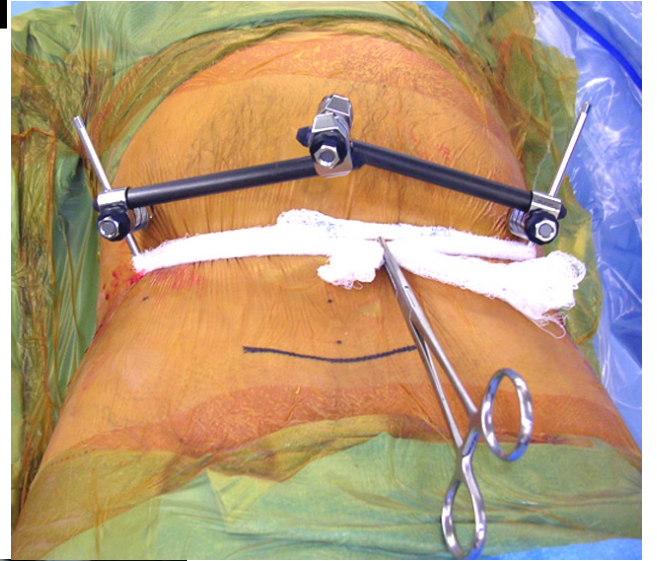
Pelvic C clamp

- Sheet reduction first
- Posterior iliac access

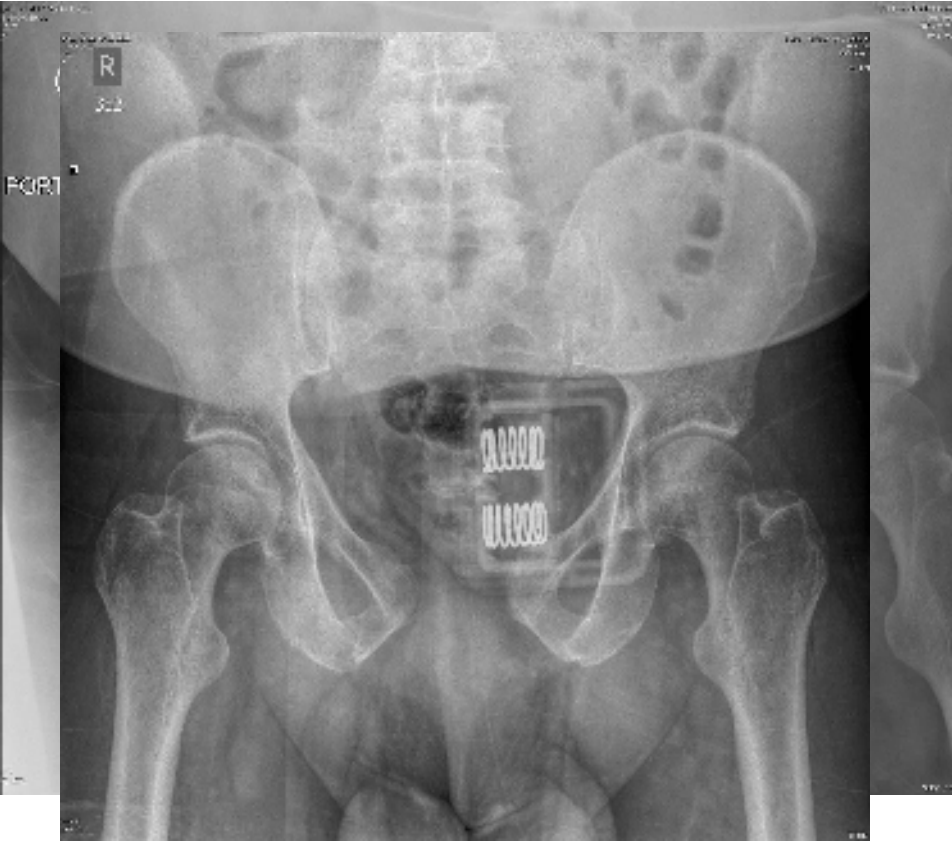


Anterior pelvic external fixation

- Iliac crest pins
- Supraacetabular pins
- Simple construct



Back to our case



- **Discussion points**

1. When to do surgery?

2. Surgical treatment options





Posterior Fixation of APC-2 Pelvic Ring Injuries Decreases Rates of Anterior Plate Failure and Malunion

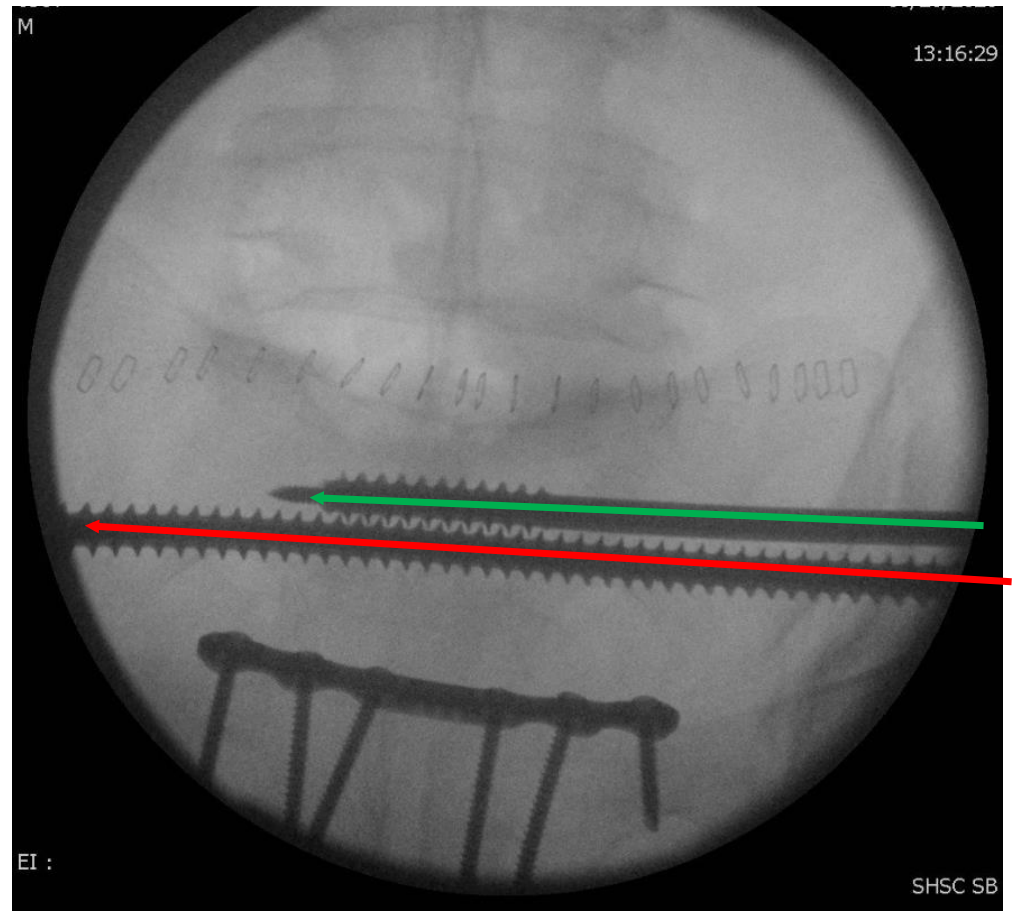
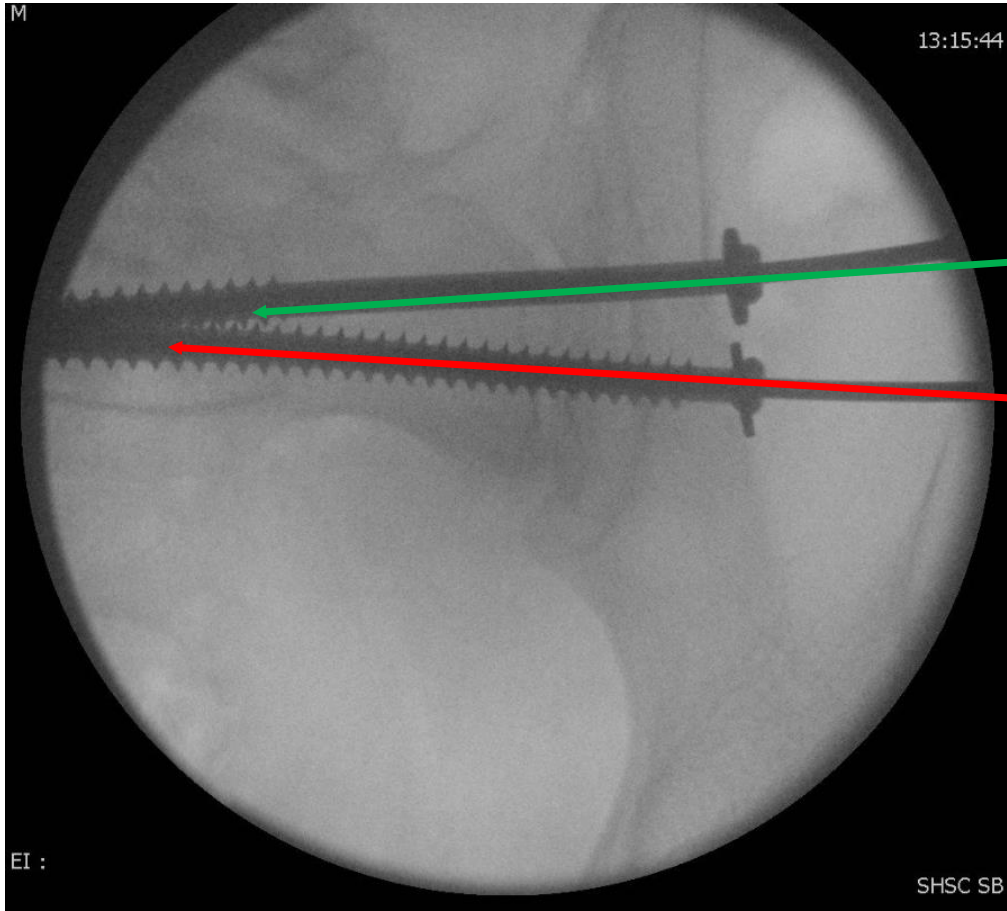
Frank R. Avilucea, MD, Paul S. Whiting, MD, and Hassan Mir, MD, MBA

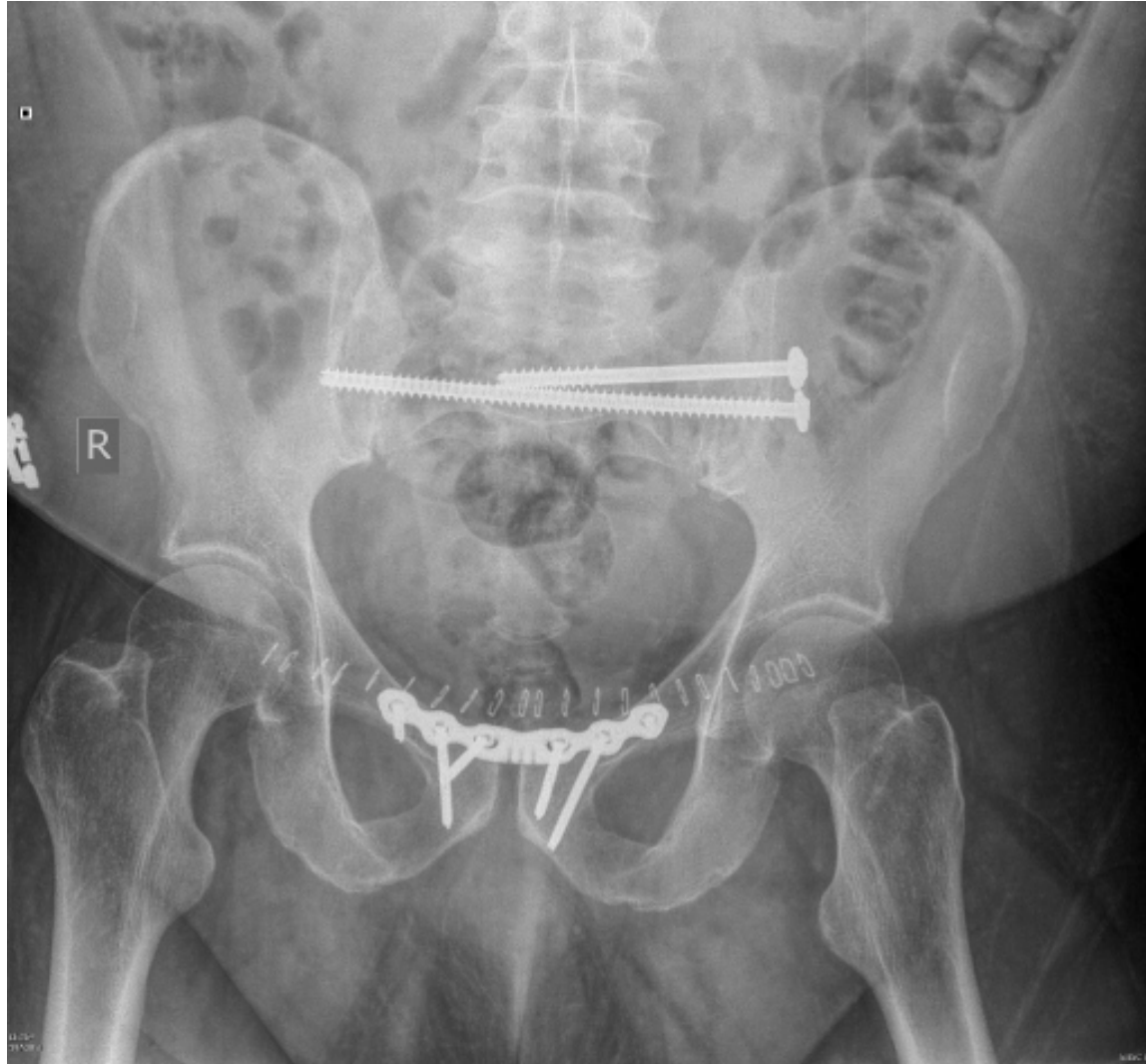
Investigation performed at the Trauma Division, Vanderbilt Orthopaedic Institute, Nashville, Tennessee

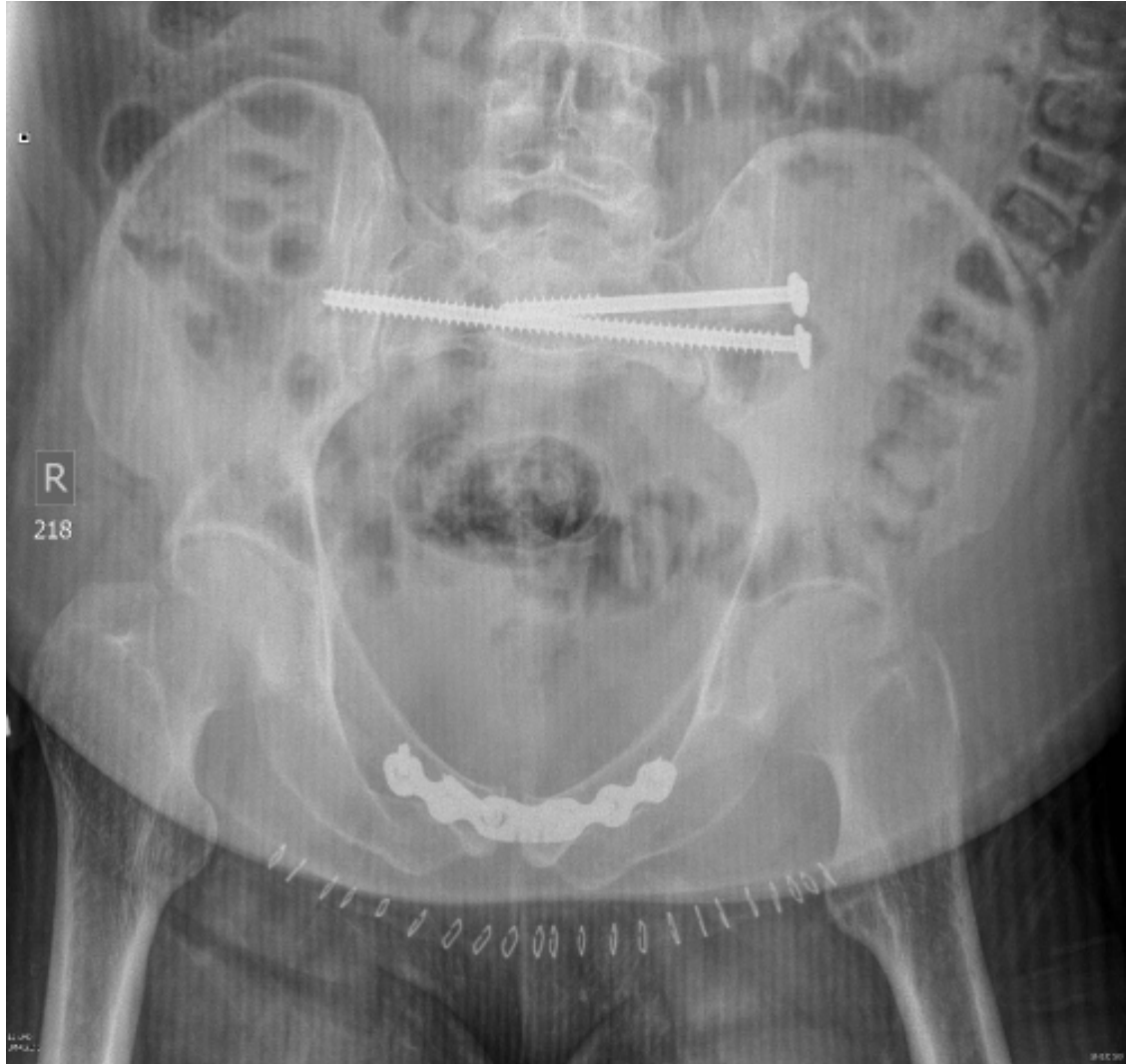
J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2016;98:944-51 •

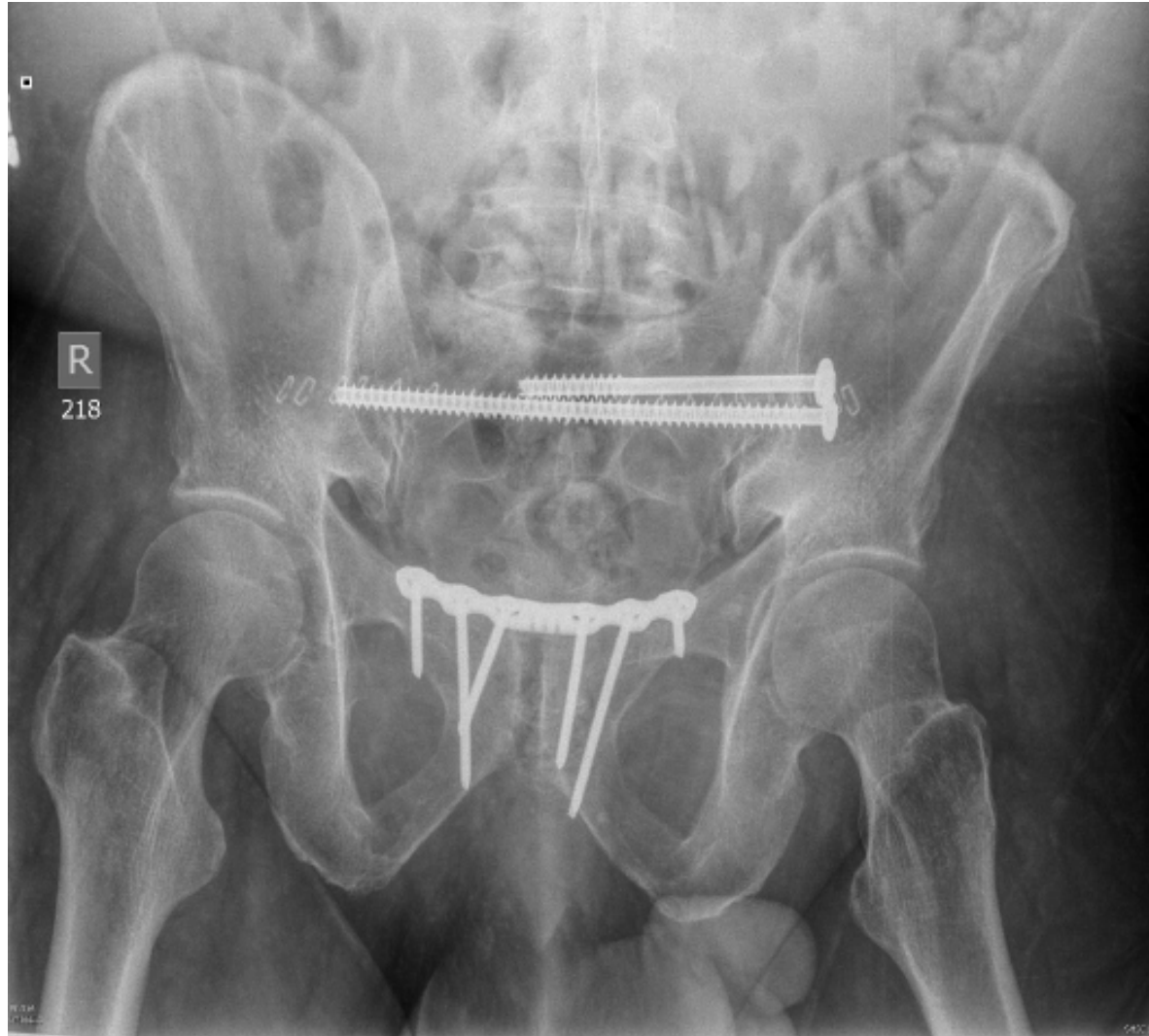
- 134 patients with APC 2 injuries.
- 69% anterior and posterior fixation vs. 31% anterior only fixation
- 40% failure rate in anterior only fixation vs 5% with combined fixation ($p < 0.001$)
- 36% malunion rate in anterior only vs. 1% with combined fixation ($p < 0.001$)



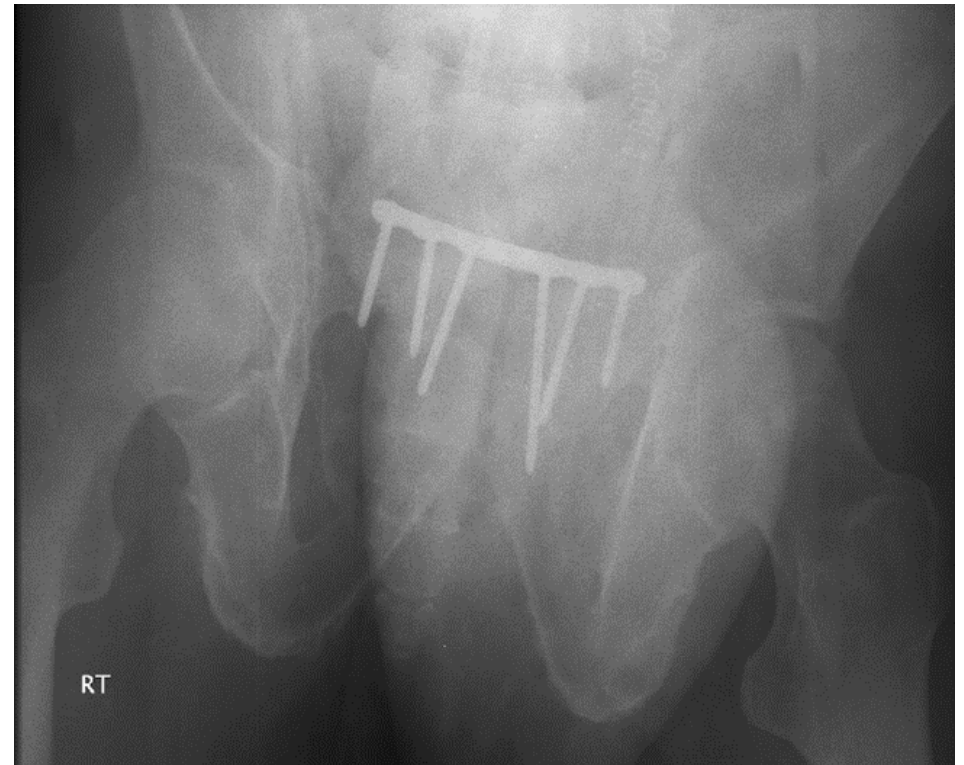




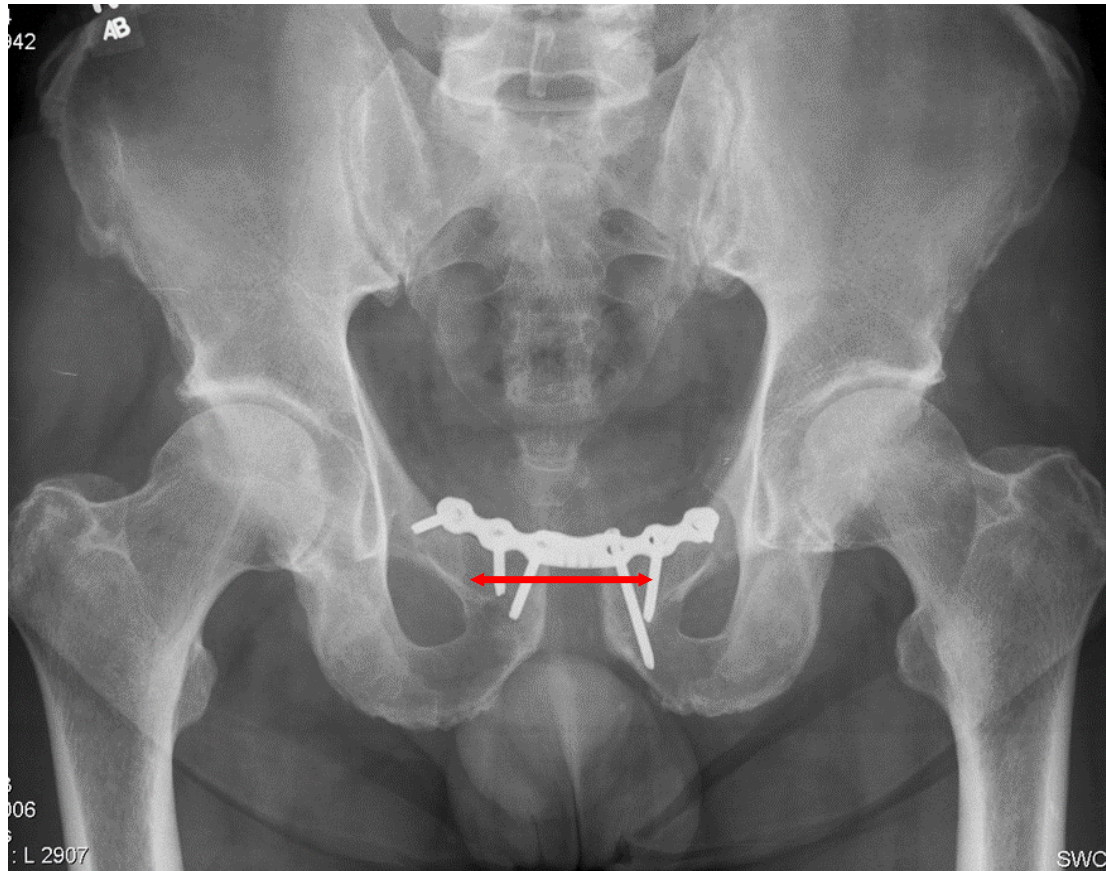




Similar case from several years ago, anterior fixation only



6 month follow up



Take home messages

- Early detection of pelvic instability in hemodynamically unstable trauma patient is essential.
- Simple procedure at ER may save patient life.
- Restoration of mechanical pelvic stability go side by side with resuscitation efforts.