

Maisonneuve fracture: a type of ankle fracture

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DESCRIPTION

A healthy, 41-year-old man sustained a left ankle injury, resulting in persistent pain that was initially diagnosed as an ankle sprain without radiographic abnormalities. Further examination at our hospital showed medial malleolus and left proximal fibula tenderness; pain on manual compression of the proximal tibia and fibula suggested tibiofibular syndesmosis injuries. Plain, full-length tibial and fibular radiography revealed an oblique fracture through the proximal diaphysis of the left fibula (figure 1). Maisonneuve fracture typically involves deltoid ligament rupture, tibiofibular ligament disruption and a spiral fracture of the proximal fibula.¹ Syndesmosis injuries involve multiple ligaments between the distal tibia and fibula; restoring their association is key to effective treatment.² Because delayed surgical intervention prolongs ankle pain, open reduction and internal fixation are generally performed.³ This patient underwent suture



Figure 1 Left tibia-fibula anterior-posterior X-ray showed proximal fibula spiral fracture (arrow).



Figure 2 X-ray showed suture button fixation of tibiofibular syndesmosis.

button fixation of tibiofibular syndesmosis (figure 2). He returned to work without complications 3 months after surgery.

Learning points

- ▶ Patient with ankle injuries should examine proximal fibula tenderness.
- ▶ Maisonneuve fracture is unstable injuries and require the patient to consult an orthopaedic surgeon.

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