

Complications Of POP Casting.

Dr Sachin Shivdas.

Clinical Specialist,

Unit of Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery,

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,

University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Non-surgical management of a fracture is the most ideal, whenever possible. Immobilization of a fracture by external casting is the commonest method of managing an inherently stable, closed fracture of most long bones. In most emerging economies, the commonest material used in casting remains Plaster of Paris (POP). Plaster casts have stood the tests of time and their benefits cannot be understated. However, there is an increasing understanding of a whole spectrum of complications which arise from plaster casting. Most of these complications are a consequence of wrong technique, wrong indications, prolonged usage and occasionally, related to the plaster material itself. Various recent studies have attempted to understand the pathogenesis of these complications and to formulate an approach at managing them. This presentation aims to provide to the medical care givers an insight into these complications, their clinical presentations, early diagnosis and providing timely management. A good understanding of these complications, would enable us to avoid these complications in our practice.