

Clinical Images and Case Reports Journal

Clinical Image | Vol 7 Iss 1

Isolated Plantar Dislocation of the Fifth Metatarsophalangeal Joint: Is Closed Reduction Always Successful?

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Received: January 25, 2025; Accepted: February 06, 2025; Published: February 15, 2025



Figure 1: standard radiograph showing isolated dislocation of the fifth metatarsophalangeal joint.

Citation: Rachdi A, Benomar AH, Benyass Y, et al Isolated Plantar Dislocation of the Fifth Metatarsophalangeal Joint: Is Closed Reduction Always Successful? Clin Image Case Rep J. 2025; 7(1): 546.

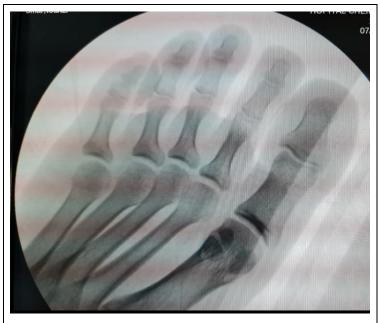


Figure 2: Peroperative x-ray showing reduction of the dislocation.

Clinical Image

A 27-year-old woman presented to our field hospital with a right foot trauma sustained after slipping while running on muddy terrain. Clinical examination revealed shortening and swelling of the right fifth toe, with palpable deformation of the fifth metatarsophalangeal joint. There was no skin laceration or sensorimotor deficit. Standard radiography revealed an isolated lateral plantar dislocation of the fifth metatarsophalangeal joint. Closed reduction was attempted with success. Post-reduction examination showed the joint was stable and the patient experienced pain relief.

In dislocation injuries of the fifth metatarsophalangeal joint, the direction of the dislocation is most frequently dorsal [1]. In rare cases, the dislocation takes place in a plantar direction, secondary to forced hyperflexion [2].

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