**Decision Making for Femoral Neck Fractures: Does Fixation Construct Matter or Is It All the Reduction**

**Joshua L. Gary MD**

1. Elder osteopenic fractures are **not** really controversial
   1. Stable – In situ screw fixation
   2. Unstable - Arthoplasty
2. High-energy femoral neck fractures
   1. Does Fixation Construct Matter? **YES**
   2. Does Reduction Matter? **YES**
   3. Does Fracture Pattern Matter? **YES**
   4. Does Comminution Matter? **YES**
   5. There is not a cookbook answer as all fractures have unique features
   6. The Pauwel’s Type III injuries seem to be most problematic
      1. Fixed angle constructs have performed better than cannulated screws in retrospective studies1,2
   7. Length stable pattern 🡪 Dynamic implant
   8. Length unstable pattern 🡪 Static implant
   9. Anteroinferior plate
      1. Does it really buttress the head? Does the head displace caudally or does the femur displace cranially with varus failure?
   10. Do some patterns just need a valgus-producing osteotomy?
   11. Concominant intertrochanteric/subtrochanteric fractures may require different fixation constructs.
3. References

1. Thein et al. Osteosynthesis of Unstable Intracapsular Femoral Neck Fracture by Dynamic Locking Plate or Screw Fixation: Early Results. *J Orthop Trauma* 2013; 28(2): 70-76.

2. Liporace et al. Results of Internal Fixation of Pauwels Type-3 Vertical Femoral Neck Fractures. *J Bone Joint Surg-Am* 2008; 90: 1654-9.

3. Luttrell et al. Operative Decision Making in the Treatment of High-Angle “Vertical” Femoral Neck Fractures in Young Adult Patients: An Opinion Survey of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association’s (OTA) Membership