**TITLE:** Chronic Elbow Dislocations: A Case Series

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The treatment of chronic elbow dislocations is a notoriously challenging problem to address surgically with results often being fraught with stiffness, recurrent instability, and/or dysfunction related to extensor mechanism injury. Complications are further compounded by the presence of an associated articular fracture. The use of external fixation, reconstruction of the collateral ligaments, transarticular pinning, length of immobilization, and identification of candidates for nonoperative treatment have all been debated in current literature.

**METHODS:**

All patients with surgically treated chronic elbow dislocations treated at one academic medical center were identified through the review of surgical records from January 2013 to January 2019.

**RESULTS:**

Five patients with an average age of 44.8 years (range 25 – 76 years) treated by two orthopaedic hand surgeons were identified. The average length of chronic elbow dislocation prior to surgery was 4.6 months (range 2 – 7 months) and 2 patients (40%) were identified as having an associated radial head fracture. The average length of follow-up was 3.3 months (range 2 – 4 months). Two patients (40%) experienced complications that required a secondary procedure and one additional patient was recommended a secondary procedure, but was lost to follow-up.

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION:**

While chronic elbow dislocations are rarely seen in the developed world, it is a frequently seen condition in developing countries where access to care is limited and traditional healers are commonplace. This case series highlights many of the challenges encountered with the surgical management of this injury in this population and demonstrates the results of various surgical techniques discussed in recent literature.