[Fractures of the lower extremity in the emergency room. Analysis of a new immobilization and x-ray splint].

Abstract:
Fractures of the lower extremity are a common reason for presentation to an emergency room. The aim of this study was to evaluate a new immobilization and x-ray splint (Andante®, ForMed) in the emergency room. From April 2010 to August 2010 all patients presenting with a fracture of the lower extremity were included in the study. Pain perception (visual analog scale; VAS) was measured before and after splint application. The handling of the splint during radiography was assessed and the quality of the diagnostic x-ray was evaluated. The study comprised 61 patients. Subjective pain perception was reduced significantly (3.96±1.9 vs. 6.38±2.2; p<0.001). The handling of the splint was graded at 1.73±0.96 (1, very good; 5, poor). There was no difference in the diagnostic quality of the x-rays between the Andante® and the control group; however, significantly poorer results were found for x-rays of ankle fractures (p<0.038). The Andante® splint is a useful tool in the emergency room that combines simple handling and pain relief due to immobilization. However, the quality of the diagnostic x-rays was not better compared with the control group.

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