

CRAFFT Study: Cast or surgery for displaced broken wrists in children?

Children's Radius Acute Fracture Fixation Trial



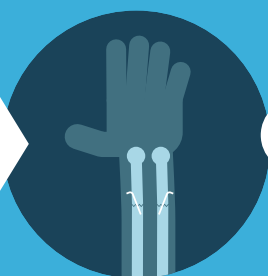
Who was in the study?

750 children aged 4–10 years old with displaced wrist fractures.

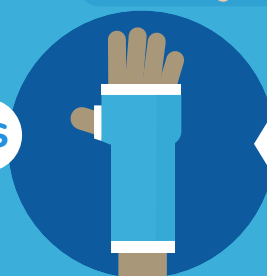
329 had completely off-ended fractures. It included children from England, Scotland and Wales.



375 received Surgical Reduction
(164 had completely off-ended fractures)



VS



375 received Non-Surgical Casting
(165 had completely off-ended fractures)

What did the study find?

81% of children were followed up for one year.



At 3 months: Children who had surgery showed a very small improvement in arm function – but families said the difference was usually too small to matter.



At 6 months and 1 year: No difference in arm function between the two groups – including for children with completely off-ended fractures.

Appearance: Parents in both groups had early concerns – scars from surgery or a slight bend during recovery. By 6 months, these concerns had largely settled in both groups.



Non-surgical casting also had fewer downsides

Fewer procedural complications. Lower costs for families and the NHS. Less school missed. Parents in both groups had similar satisfaction with care.



Be CRAFFTY – Cast First

Read the evidence at www.CRAFFTstudy.org · Published in The Lancet

