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REDUCTION OF A FRACTURE OF THE HUMERUS OF A BRAHMINY KITE (*HALIASTUR INDUS*)

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A juvenile Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) was presented to the Zoo hospital with a history of an attack by a dog the previous day. When examined, a fracture of the right humerus (more towards the anterior end) was observed. The fractured ends of the bone had also overlapped. The injured site was oedematous and bluish in colouration.

It was decided to reduce the fracture and the bird was tranquilized using 5mg of Ketamine Hydrochloride. The weight of the bird was 500g. The bird was anaesthatised after two minutes of administration of the drug and was ready for the surgery in five minutes. The area around the injury was cleaned using normal saline and gauze. Upon closer examination, the muscles of the area around the fracture were found to be inflammed as a result of the injury.

The distal part of the wing was rotated and pushed through the opening of the injury so that it was in line with the other part of the humerus. Clindamycin (150mg) was infiltrated around the wound and a steroid ointment was applied for the oedema to subside. The opening was closed using nylon suture material.

As there was no way to immobilize the humerus, it was decided to use a hub of a disposable needle to achieve at least partial immobilization of the humerus. The hub of a needle was split into two and wrapped well with cotton wool and adhesive plaster, and was kept on each side of the reduced fracture. A nylon thread was passed through the wing web and then over the needle hub and the two ends were tied to keep them in position.

Clindamycin (150mg) was given intramuscularly as antibiotic. The bird was kept in a dark box until recovery. After three hours, the bird recovered fully and was transferred to a cage.

The oedema and bluish colouration had subsided the following day and the bird was observed to be very alert. When placed on the ground it made few attempts to fly but in vain.

Since the bird tried to remove the padded hub of the needle on the dorsal side of its wing, it was decided to introduce an Elizabethan collar. The antibiotic cover was continued twice a day for seven days. In addition Calcium powder and Vitamin C were given with its meal.

The bird recovered fully after three weeks and the padded hubs of the needle were removed.

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