

Range Animal Hospital

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Fracture Repair with Intramedullary Pin +/- Kirschner External Fixation

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- This time-tested procedure is well suited to many tibial, femoral, and humeral diaphyseal fractures.
 - Radial fractures can sometimes be repaired with this technique; they are often best served by other procedures.
 - Many fractures can be repaired with minimal invasion. Often small incisions in simple transverse and oblique fractures are all that is necessary to insert the implants and reduce the fracture.
 - Complex, comminuted fractures can often be nicely reassembled about the IM pin with carefully placed cerclage wires.
 - While structural strength is important, we fully understand the concept that “it is better to be a gardener than a carpenter” in these repairs.
 - External fixation with a Kirschner apparatus is very effective in eliminating axial torsion and maintaining bone length until the initial healing does so.
 - We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
 - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
 - A 10-12 day suture removal.
 - A 21-28 day postoperative exam, x-ray, and possible Kirschner removal.
 - Intramedullary pin removal in 6 weeks to 6 months, at your hospital or ours, at your preference.
 - Please send any preoperative laboratory tests and radiographs.
 - Surgery is done daily as needed by each individual case.
 - Call ASAP with your request for referral. It is appropriate to call Dr. Martinson after hours to aid in coordinating his schedule.
 - Uncomplicated cases typically spend one night in the hospital. Costs are \$900 to \$1200 [January 2011]. Difficult cases will be representatively more. Ask for an estimate.