THERAPY

Objective:

To learn to apply the results of therapeutic studies to clinical practice

This includes:
1. Determining the study’s validity
2. Interpreting the results
3. Applying them to clinical practice

Assignment:

1. Read the scenario
2. Read the attached guidelines for reading articles concerning therapy
3. Critically appraise the attached article using the worksheet
4. Decide how you would respond to the problem

Clinical Scenario:

You are a busy surgeon in a community-based practice. You service an active community and in a month may see 2 or 3 clavicle fractures. A visiting resident is rotating with you for a 6 week rotation and wishes to discuss a case she has just seen in the emergency department.

Briefly, she has seen an active 23 year old male who has just come in from the ski hill. A fall onto his left shoulder has produced a midshaft clavicle fracture. Radiographs confirm this diagnosis and also show that there is 3 cm of overlap of the fracture fragments. This injury is closed with no obvious tenting of the skin. The arm is neurovascularly intact and the patient has no other injuries. He is otherwise completely healthy and is working towards a master’s degree in public health.

In discussing this case, your elective resident states that she has already filled in the consent form for an open reduction internal fixation of the clavicle and wonders what the general procedure is for booking surgery. You are surprised by this decision and ask what her indications are for surgery. She mentions that surgeons in her centre are aggressive with these fractures as “clearly, patients are functionally better with an operation”.

As the patient has an important family function that evening you suggest to send him home in a sling and ask him to come to clinic in the morning. You are aware of some recent evidence on clavicle fracture management and review the attached article.
**Relevant Materials:**

