

Clinical Case Studies Series

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EXOGEN® Ultrasound Bone Healing System has been on the market in the United States for 25 years. In that period of time, EXOGEN has helped numerous physicians across the country in their delivery of fracture care. This case study series (unpublished) demonstrates EXOGEN's adjunctive treatment benefit when a physician has stabilized the fracture, allowing the patient's biology to be stimulated by the low-intensity pulsed ultrasound technology, and ultimately, heal the nonunion fracture.

No complications or adverse events were reported for the cases in this series.



Distal Fibular Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Robert Zura, MD

Professor, the Robert D'Ambrosia Chair of Orthopaedics at LSU Health Sciences Center

Patient Information:

Male, 69 years old, overweight

Fracture:

Distal fibular nonunion fracture, oblique, Weber B, SERII

Cause of Injury:

The patient was involved in a golf cart accident.

Treatment Objectives:

- Achieve union
- Increase function
- Eliminate pain

Prior Treatments:

Nonoperative, boot and cast

Treatment Plan:

The patient's healthcare provider referred him to Dr. Zura because the nonoperative treatments were not effective for a symptomatic nonunion. Dr. Zura recommended surgery, but the patient declined. Because the fracture was stable and not infected, Dr. Zura felt it was reasonable to continue nonoperative care and decided to utilize EXOGEN, which he prescribed for 20 minutes a day.

Results:

All three objectives were met by 10 months post-injury (3 months EXOGEN use). The patient healed and was pain free. The sclerosis at fracture margins were resolved and healed with bridging bone.

Individual results may vary.





X-ray and CT images taken 7 months after injury





Side-to-side comparison of preand post-EXOGEN treatment

Physician:

Robert Zura, MD

Professor, the Robert D'Ambrosia Chair of Orthopaedics at LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine

Patient Information:

Female, 27 years old, average body weight

Fracture:

Mid-diaphyseal left humerus nonunion

Cause of Injury:

The patient was involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Comorbidities/ Risk Factors:

Multi-trauma

Treatment Objectives:

- · Heal the nonunion
- Restore function

Prior Treatments:

Surgery, open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) and plate at time of injury

Treatment Plan:

The patient was scheduled for revision surgery by her local surgeon, but moved to a different location before the surgery could take place.

Following her move, she was referred to Dr. Zura. Since she was pain free and her fracture was stable and not infected, Dr. Zura decided on a nonoperative approach by prescribing EXOGEN for 20 minutes a day.

At 9 months post-injury (4 months of EXOGEN use), there was subtle but persistent lucency through the transverse fracture of the left humeral diaphysis without evidence of complete osseous bridging. Because Dr. Zura saw biologic activity, he recommended continuing nonoperatively with EXOGEN. The patient showed complete radiographic healing after 8 months of EXOGEN usage.

Results:

The patient had a successful outcome. The fracture completely healed between 4 and 8 months of EXOGEN use.





X-ray images taken 5 months post-op





X-ray images taken 13 months postop; 8 months after initiating treatment with EXOGEN

Distal Tibial Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Damien Billow, MD Assistant Professor of Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Patient Information:

Male, 36 years old, 224 lbs

Fracture:

Distal tibial fracture with nondisplaced posterior malleolus fragment that progressed to nonunion

Cause of Injury:

The patient is a police officer who suffered a fracture while making an arrest

Treatment Objectives:

- Avoid further surgery
- · Achieve bony healing
- Restore function

Prior Treatments:

The patient had surgery for percutaneous screw fixation of posterior malleolus fragment and suprapatellar nailing post injury.

Treatment Plan:

The patient was non-weight bearing post-op due to distal fracture and posterior malleolus involvement. Approximately two months post-op, the patient was able to advance to weight bearing as tolerated, and Dr. Billow prescribed EXOGEN at three months. X-rays taken nine weeks after EXOGEN was prescribed showed evidence of progressive healing.

Results:

Successfully healed nonunion, allowing the patient to avoid further surgery





X-ray at injury, pre-op and x-ray ~2 months post-op





X-rays taken at ~2 months and ~9 months post-EXOGEN treatment

Physician:

Damien Billow, MD Assistant Professor of Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Patient Information:

Female, 84 years old, BMI 33.2 kg/m²

Fracture:

Closed midshaft femoral nonunion above a cemented long-stem revision TKA

Cause of Injury:

Fell from standing

Comorbidities/ Risk Factors:

Multi-trauma Osteoporosis Pulmonary hypertension

Treatment Objectives:

- Achieve union
- Return to weight bearing

Prior Treatments:

ORIF Revision ORIF

Treatment Plan:

The patient initially had an ORIF procedure with lag screws to lock the distal femur plate and cables. Three months later, X-rays showed progression towards healing. However, the patient was non-weight bearing. Due to a broken plate, after ten weeks the patient had a second surgery that included plate, cables, femoral allograft strut and allograft chips and was non-weight bearing post-op. Dr. Billow prescribed EXOGEN as adjunct therapy. Two months later, the patient achieved significant callus formation and advanced to partial weight bearing. The patient was fully weight bearing seven weeks later.

Results:

Fracture healed with full union





X-ray at injury and X-ray of broken plate ~5 months post injury





X-rays post revision surgery ~2 and ~6 months of EXOGEN use.

Distal Tibial Pilon Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Damien Billow, MD Assistant Professor of Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Patient Information:

Male, 69 years old, 167 lbs

Fracture:

Closed 43-C1 distal tibial pilon nonunion

Cause of Injury:

Fall from standing

Comorbidities/ Risk Factors:

Smoker History of alcohol abuse Peripheral artery disease COPD

Treatment Objectives:

- Exfix
- ORIF

Prior Treatments:

The patient initially had temporary spanning ExFix, followed by an ORIF procedure three weeks later. The patient was admitted to the ICU 8 weeks later due to issues unrelated to the fracture.

Treatment Plan:

Seventeen weeks post-op, the patient advanced to weight bearing and Dr. Billow initiated EXOGEN use. X-rays taken nine weeks later showed some callus formation and a follow-up set of X-rays 13 weeks later showed radiographic evidence of progression.

Results:

Achieved union in patient with comorbidities





X-rays taken immediately after injury





X-ray taken 7 weeks post-op; no progression of healing shown and X-ray taken 3 months post-EXOGEN use

Physician:

Damien Billow, MD Assistant Professor of Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Patient Information:

Male, 52 years old, BMI 39/kgm²

Fracture:

Closed comminuted distal tibia pilon nonunion (comminution involved all of distal tibia metaphysis and extended into distal tibia diaphysis)

Cause of Injury:

The patient fell from a ladder

Comorbidities/ Risk Factors

Former smoker

Treatment Objectives:

- Achieve bony healing
- Eliminate the need for additional surgery

Prior Treatments:

ORIF Revision ORIF

Treatment Plan:

The patient was initially treated with external fixation on the day of injury, and an ORIF procedure two weeks later. The patient was nonweight bearing post-op. X-rays taken at a follow-up appointment seven weeks later revealed no evidence of progression to healing. Dr. Billow then prescribed an EXOGEN device. X-rays taken six weeks after EXOGEN was prescribed showed some evidence of healing, with increased density in the zone of the fracture.

Results:

Fracture healed with approximately 3 months of EXOGEN use.





X-ray at injury and X-ray 17 weeks post-op (EXOGEN use initiated)





X-rays taken ~2 months and ~7 months post-EXOGEN use

Femur Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Michael Prayson, MD Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery and Director, Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship, Wright State University,Valley Hospital, Dayton, OH

Patient Information:

Female, 47 years old

Fracture:

Right reverse obliquity subtrochanteric femur fracture

Cause of Injury:

Tripped on uneven pavement

Comorbidities/Risk Factors:

History of smoking Obesity Fracture pattern

Prior Treatments:

Post-op locked cephalomedullary nailing

Persistent pain/lack of healing

Underwent nail dynamization at 9 months post-injury

Treatment Plan:

The patient was referred to Dr. Prayson from an outside physician after a nail dynamization failed.

11 months post-injury, CT scan showed persistent hypertrophic nonunion, and the patient was considered for nonunion repair surgery. However, since the fracture and hardware were stable, Dr. Prayson prescribed EXOGEN.

Results:

Nonunion healed, symptoms resolved, and additional surgery avoided.



Initial fracture



Post-op



11 months post-injury



3 months of EXOGEN use 14 months post-injury

Tibia Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Robert Anderson, MD Titletown Sports Medicine, Green Bay, WI

Patient Information:

Female, 53 years old; school principal

Fracture:

Tibia fracture at external fixation pin site

Comorbidities/Risk Factors:

History of nonunion of prior midfoot deformity correction

Diabetes

Neuropathy

Prior Treatments:

Closed reduction with long-leg cast Non-weight bearing

Treatment Plan:

After 3 months, the fracture showed no progression of healing. Dr. Anderson prescribed EXOGEN and kept the patient in a long-leg cast. At 5 months, the patient showed significant bone healing and progressed to a short-leg walking cast.

Results:

At 7 months, the nonunion was healed and additional bone healing was evident. The patient avoided surgery.



5 months - Progressed to short-leg walking cast



5 months - Significant bone healing



7 months - Nonunion healed

Metatarsal Nonunion Fracture

Physician:

Robert Anderson, MD Bellin Health Titletown Sports Medicine & Orthopedics, Green Bay, WI

Patient Information:

Male, 20 years old; college football player

Fracture:

Refractured metatarsal on right foot

Cause of Injury:

Motor Vehicle Accident

Comorbidities/Risk Factors:

History of Jones fracture Two prior surgeries No comorbidities

Prior Treatments:

Treated conservatively with cast and boot

Treatment Plan:

No progression to healing; nonunion diagnosis

Screw from prior surgery was bending

EXOGEN prescribed at 3 months post-op

Boot with weight bearing continued

Results:

Complete union noted 17 weeks after initiating EXOGEN. Patient was asymptomatic and additional sugery was avoided. Patient returned to football 8 months post-op.



Initial fracture



Healed fracture 17 weeks EXOGEN use



Active Healing Through Orthobiologics

The physicians in this case series are paid consultants of Bioventus LLC. They received compensation from Bioventus LLC related to these cases.

Indications for Use: The EXOGEN Ultrasound Bone Healing System is indicated for the non-invasive treatment of established nonunions* excluding skull and vertebra. In addition, EXOGEN is indicated for accelerating the time to a healed fracture for fresh, closed, posteriorly displaced distal radius fractures and fresh, closed or Grade I open tibial diaphysis fractures in skeletally mature individuals when these fractures are orthopaedically managed by closed reduction and cast immobilization.

*A nonunion is considered to be established when the fracture site shows no visibly progressive signs of healing.

There are no known contraindications for the EXOGEN device. Safety and effectiveness have not been established for individuals lacking skeletal maturity, pregnant or nursing women, patients with cardiac pacemakers, on fractures due to bone cancer, or on patients with poor blood circulation or clotting problems. Some patients may be sensitive to the ultrasound gel.

Full prescribing information can be found in product labeling, at www.exogen.com, or by calling customer service at 1-800-836-4080.

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