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BACKGROUND
- The terrible triad injury (TTI) of the elbow is an uncommon lesion.
- The main objectives of treatment are the stabilization of the fractures and the reconstruction of the collateral ligaments [McKee MD 2005, Ring D 2002] to achieve a correct joint alignment.
- There is still no consensus on the surgical treatment.
- The literature reports overall poor short and long term results and high complication rates.

PURPOSE
- To evaluate the clinical, functional and radiological results from the surgical treatment of terrible triad injuries (TTI) of the elbow

MATERIAL & METHODS
- Retrospective study (2014 – 2017)
- Institutional Board Approval
- Inclusion criteria: acute injury; age > 18 years; complete treatment and follow-up
- Exclusion criteria: refused treatment; lost at follow-up; HO was not a significant problem for most of the patients

DISCUSSION
- low energy trauma: most common mechanism of injury
- high-energy trauma: mostly associated with additional injuries
- 60% of patients with TTI associated with other injuries of the upper extremity: good and excellent results
- splint immobilization: significantly lower VAS (p = .053) and DASH scores (p = .046) than CREF
- arc of flexion-extension and pronation-supination not necessarily correlated with MEPI, DASH and VAS
- HO was not a significant problem for most of the patients

CONCLUSIONS
- Despite the residual deficit, the patients evolved with good clinical results
- Contrary to what postulated by some authors, the prognosis of the TTI appears to be favorable.