

# GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии  
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

## GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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**GMN: Georgian Medical News** is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board since 1994. GMN carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

GMN is indexed in MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PubMed and VINITI Russian Academy of Sciences. The full text content is available through EBSCO databases.

**GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии** - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения. Журнал индексируется в MEDLINE, отражён в базе данных SCOPUS, PubMed и ВИНТИ РАН. Полнотекстовые статьи журнала доступны через БД EBSCO.

**GMN: Georgian Medical News** – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

ჟურნალი ინდექსირებულია MEDLINE-ის საერთაშორისო სისტემაში, ასახულია SCOPUS-ის, PubMed-ის და ВИНТИ РАН-ის მონაცემთა ბაზებში. სტატიების სრული ტექსტი ხელმისაწვდომია EBSCO-ს მონაცემთა ბაზებში.

## WEBSITE

[www.geomednews.com](http://www.geomednews.com)

## К СВЕДЕНИЮ АВТОРОВ!

При направлении статьи в редакцию необходимо соблюдать следующие правила:

1. Статья должна быть представлена в двух экземплярах, на русском или английском языках, напечатанная через **полтора интервала на одной стороне стандартного листа с шириной левого поля в три сантиметра**. Используемый компьютерный шрифт для текста на русском и английском языках - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, для текста на грузинском языке следует использовать **AcadNusx**. Размер шрифта - **12**. К рукописи, напечатанной на компьютере, должен быть приложен CD со статьей.

2. Размер статьи должен быть не менее десяти и не более двадцати страниц машинописи, включая указатель литературы и резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках.

3. В статье должны быть освещены актуальность данного материала, методы и результаты исследования и их обсуждение.

При представлении в печать научных экспериментальных работ авторы должны указывать вид и количество экспериментальных животных, применявшиеся методы обезболивания и усыпления (в ходе острых опытов).

4. К статье должны быть приложены краткое (на полстраницы) резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках (включающее следующие разделы: цель исследования, материал и методы, результаты и заключение) и список ключевых слов (key words).

5. Таблицы необходимо представлять в печатной форме. Фотокопии не принимаются. **Все цифровые, итоговые и процентные данные в таблицах должны соответствовать таковым в тексте статьи.** Таблицы и графики должны быть озаглавлены.

6. Фотографии должны быть контрастными, фотокопии с рентгенограмм - в позитивном изображении. Рисунки, чертежи и диаграммы следует озаглавить, пронумеровать и вставить в соответствующее место текста **в tiff формате**.

В подписях к микрофотографиям следует указывать степень увеличения через окуляр или объектив и метод окраски или импрегнации срезов.

7. Фамилии отечественных авторов приводятся в оригинальной транскрипции.

8. При оформлении и направлении статей в журнал МНГ просим авторов соблюдать правила, изложенные в «Единых требованиях к рукописям, представляемым в биомедицинские журналы», принятых Международным комитетом редакторов медицинских журналов - <http://www.spinesurgery.ru/files/publish.pdf> и [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html). В конце каждой оригинальной статьи приводится библиографический список. В список литературы включаются все материалы, на которые имеются ссылки в тексте. Список составляется в алфавитном порядке и нумеруется. Литературный источник приводится на языке оригинала. В списке литературы сначала приводятся работы, написанные знаками грузинского алфавита, затем кириллицей и латиницей. Ссылки на цитируемые работы в тексте статьи даются в квадратных скобках в виде номера, соответствующего номеру данной работы в списке литературы. Большинство цитированных источников должны быть за последние 5-7 лет.

9. Для получения права на публикацию статья должна иметь от руководителя работы или учреждения визу и сопроводительное отношение, написанные или напечатанные на бланке и заверенные подписью и печатью.

10. В конце статьи должны быть подписи всех авторов, полностью приведены их фамилии, имена и отчества, указаны служебный и домашний номера телефонов и адреса или иные координаты. Количество авторов (соавторов) не должно превышать пяти человек.

11. Редакция оставляет за собой право сокращать и исправлять статьи. Корректур авторам не высылаются, вся работа и сверка проводится по авторскому оригиналу.

12. Недопустимо направление в редакцию работ, представленных к печати в иных издательствах или опубликованных в других изданиях.

**При нарушении указанных правил статьи не рассматриваются.**

## REQUIREMENTS

Please note, materials submitted to the Editorial Office Staff are supposed to meet the following requirements:

1. Articles must be provided with a double copy, in English or Russian languages and typed or computer-printed on a single side of standard typing paper, with the left margin of 3 centimeters width, and 1.5 spacing between the lines, typeface - **Times New Roman (Cyrillic)**, print size - 12 (referring to Georgian and Russian materials). With computer-printed texts please enclose a CD carrying the same file titled with Latin symbols.

2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

Authors of the scientific-research works must indicate the number of experimental biological species drawn in, list the employed methods of anesthetization and soporific means used during acute tests.

4. Articles must have a short (half page) abstract in English, Russian and Georgian (including the following sections: aim of study, material and methods, results and conclusions) and a list of key words.

5. Tables must be presented in an original typed or computer-printed form, instead of a photocopied version. **Numbers, totals, percentile data on the tables must coincide with those in the texts of the articles.** Tables and graphs must be headed.

6. Photographs are required to be contrasted and must be submitted with doubles. Please number each photograph with a pencil on its back, indicate author's name, title of the article (short version), and mark out its top and bottom parts. Drawings must be accurate, drafts and diagrams drawn in Indian ink (or black ink). Photocopies of the X-ray photographs must be presented in a positive image in **tiff format**.

Accurately numbered subtitles for each illustration must be listed on a separate sheet of paper. In the subtitles for the microphotographs please indicate the ocular and objective lens magnification power, method of coloring or impregnation of the microscopic sections (preparations).

7. Please indicate last names, first and middle initials of the native authors, present names and initials of the foreign authors in the transcription of the original language, enclose in parenthesis corresponding number under which the author is listed in the reference materials.

8. Please follow guidance offered to authors by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidance in its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals publication available online at: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)  
[http://www.icmje.org/urm\\_full.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf)

In GMN style for each work cited in the text, a bibliographic reference is given, and this is located at the end of the article under the title "References". All references cited in the text must be listed. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically and then numbered. References are numbered in the text [numbers in square brackets] and in the reference list and numbers are repeated throughout the text as needed. The bibliographic description is given in the language of publication (citations in Georgian script are followed by Cyrillic and Latin).

9. To obtain the rights of publication articles must be accompanied by a visa from the project instructor or the establishment, where the work has been performed, and a reference letter, both written or typed on a special signed form, certified by a stamp or a seal.

10. Articles must be signed by all of the authors at the end, and they must be provided with a list of full names, office and home phone numbers and addresses or other non-office locations where the authors could be reached. The number of the authors (co-authors) must not exceed the limit of 5 people.

11. Editorial Staff reserves the rights to cut down in size and correct the articles. Proof-sheets are not sent out to the authors. The entire editorial and collation work is performed according to the author's original text.

12. Sending in the works that have already been assigned to the press by other Editorial Staffs or have been printed by other publishers is not permissible.

**Articles that Fail to Meet the Aforementioned  
Requirements are not Assigned to be Reviewed.**

## ავტორთა საყურადღებო!

რედაქციაში სტატიის წარმოდგენისას საჭიროა დავიცვათ შემდეგი წესები:

1. სტატია უნდა წარმოადგინოთ 2 ცალად, რუსულ ან ინგლისურ ენებზე, დაბეჭდილი სტანდარტული ფურცლის 1 გვერდზე, 3 სმ სიგანის მარცხენა ველისა და სტრიქონებს შორის 1,5 ინტერვალის დაცვით. გამოყენებული კომპიუტერული შრიფტი რუსულ და ინგლისურენოვან ტექსტებში - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, ხოლო ქართულენოვან ტექსტში საჭიროა გამოვიყენოთ **AcadNusx**. შრიფტის ზომა – 12. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს CD სტატიით.

2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემავსებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრაფიის ფოტოსურათები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალების შედეგების ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

აღნიშნული წესების დარღვევის შემთხვევაში სტატიები არ განიხილება.

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## INTRA-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT OF TIBIAL PLATEAU FRACTURE REDUCTION IN LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS

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### Abstract.

**Aim of the study:** To summarize current intra-operative techniques for assessing tibial plateau fracture reduction, with a particular focus on their feasibility and applicability in low-resource settings.

**Material and methods:** This narrative review synthesizes literature describing intraoperative assessment strategies for tibial plateau fractures. Although no single study specifically addressed reduction assessment in low-resource environments, relevant articles discussing imaging-based assessments (e.g. fluoroscopy, 3D imaging), direct visualization approaches (e.g. arthrotomy), and tactile reduction techniques were included based on clinical relevance and applicability.

**Results:** Conventional 2D fluoroscopy remains the most widely used intraoperative imaging modality, despite its limited sensitivity for subtle articular incongruities. Direct visualization techniques, including arthrotomy, provide reliable tactile and visual assessment without requiring advanced imaging. Emerging innovations such as smartphone-assisted tools and 3D printing hold promise but currently lack validation in low-resource settings. There remains a notable gap in literature addressing tailored intraoperative assessment protocols for resource-constrained environments.

**Conclusions:** In the absence of advanced intraoperative imaging, reliance on fundamental principles—such as thorough preoperative planning, direct visual and tactile assessment, and structured surgical technique—remains essential. There is an urgent need for context-specific research and pragmatic innovations to improve intraoperative fracture assessment and surgical outcomes in low-resource settings.

**Key words.** Tibial plateau fracture, intra-operative assessment, fluoroscopy, tactile reduction, low-resource settings.

### Introduction.

Tibial plateau fractures are complex peri-articular injuries that necessitate precise anatomical reduction to restore joint congruity and function. Inadequate reduction is strongly associated with worse long-term outcomes—particularly the development of post-traumatic osteoarthritis and reduced mobility. A recent 10-year cohort study demonstrated that approximately 9% of patients progressed to total knee arthroplasty over 4mm significantly increasing this risk [1]. Additionally, medium- to long-term follow-up of 130 patients found radiographic osteoarthritis in 50% of cases, correlating with worse functional scores and quality-of-life outcomes [2].

In high-resource environments, intraoperative tools such as three-dimensional fluoroscopy, cone-beam CT, and navigation

systems help detect subtle misalignments and hardware misplacements [3,4]. However, these modalities are often unavailable in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) due to limited infrastructure, cost constraints, and training gaps [5]. Consequently, surgeons in these settings more commonly depend on 2D fluoroscopy, direct visualization techniques (e.g., arthrotomy, submeniscal exposure), and tactile assessment using cortical landmarks to evaluate reduction. Notably, more than 30% of complex fractures may be inadequately assessed by fluoroscopy alone [6,7]. Although pragmatic, these strategies may fail to identify minor but clinically significant articular incongruities, particularly in the posterior plateau. There is a clear need to standardize and disseminate intraoperative assessment strategies that are both effective and feasible in resource-constrained environments. This narrative review explores and synthesises existing literature alongside practical solutions – spanning imaging methods, visual and tactile techniques, and pragmatic adaptations – to highlight opportunities for improved fracture care in low-resource settings.

### Review.

This article is presented as a narrative review, synthesizing current knowledge and practical approaches for intraoperative assessment of tibial plateau fracture reduction, with a particular emphasis on their applicability in low-resource settings.

While a targeted exploration of the literature was performed to inform this review, no single study was identified that specifically addressed intraoperative reduction assessment techniques in low-resource environments, highlighting a notable gap in the current literature. Consequently, this review draws upon relevant studies describing imaging-based assessments, direct visualization approaches such as arthrotomy, and tactile reduction techniques, integrating them through expert interpretation and thematic synthesis to provide practical insights transferable to resource-constrained surgical practice.

No formal systematic search, inclusion/exclusion criteria, or meta-analysis was undertaken. Rather, studies were selected based on their clinical relevance, significance to the topic, and potential applicability to settings with limited surgical infrastructure.

### 1. Imaging-Based Intraoperative Assessment:

Intraoperative imaging remains a cornerstone of assessing fracture reduction during tibial plateau surgery. 2D fluoroscopy is the most widely used modality, providing real-time visualization during reduction and fixation. However, its sensitivity in detecting small intraarticular incongruities-



particularly posterior depression fragments or marginal step-offs-is limited. Studies by Haller et al. and Khoury et al. have shown that subtle malreductions frequently go unnoticed when relying solely on fluoroscopy [8,9]. In a large series of 559 cases, Beisemann et al. found that intraoperative 3D imaging necessitated revision of reduction or implant placement in over 25% of procedures, where initial 2D fluoroscopy had failed to detect the issue [10]. Advanced modalities such as intraoperative CT and cone-beam CT offer enhanced visualization and have been associated with improved articular alignment and reduced revision rates. However, their cost, space

requirements, and technical demands limit widespread use, particularly in low-resource environments. Furthermore, the workflow integration and learning curve of these tools may present additional barriers to implementation in settings with constrained surgical capacity. Despite these limitations, even in resource-constrained settings, optimizing standard fluoroscopy use remains critical. Strategies such as using dedicated lateral and AP projections, ensuring limb positioning to avoid rotational artifacts, and correlating intraoperative findings with preoperative CT can improve the accuracy of assessment.

## **2. Open and Tactile Reduction Methods:**

In environments where advanced intraoperative imaging is unavailable, open reduction through arthrotomy provides a direct and reliable method for assessing the articular surface during tibial plateau fracture fixation. This allows for visualization and tactile evaluation of reduction quality, particularly in complex fracture patterns. The midline lateral parapatellar (LP) arthrotomy, as described by Heineman et al., offers over twice the articular exposure compared to traditional anterolateral approaches without increasing operative time or complication rates, making it particularly advantageous in resource-constrained settings [11].

Intraoperative assessment in such contexts heavily relies on tactile feedback and palpation of cortical landmarks. Surgeons use fingers or instruments to detect step-offs, gaps, or incongruity, with judgment informed by experience. Several studies support this practice: Rodriguez et al. demonstrated its utility in restoring alignment and length during femoral revision procedures [12]; Wang et al. showed strong correlation between palpation-based judgment and mechanical stability in screw placement [13] and Crostelli et al. highlighted the success of landmark-guided screw placement in spinal surgery without imaging-a transferable principle to trauma care [14].

Despite the subjective nature of these methods, they remain indispensable where imaging falls short. Surgical training programs focusing on these tactile skills may enhance fracture care outcomes in underserved regions.

## **3. Innovative and Adaptable Tools in Low-Resource Settings:**

High-income surgical environments benefit from advanced intraoperative technologies such as navigation, computer-assisted alignment, and intraoperative CT. However, these are often impractical in resource-constrained settings due to infrastructure, cost, and training limitations. In such contexts, adaptation of core fracture management principles becomes crucial.

The AO Foundation's principles emphasize the value of preoperative templating using standard radiographs, careful

intraoperative assessment of fracture morphology, and methodical planning using available imaging. These practices remain the backbone of fracture surgery in low-resource settings and can be optimized to ensure consistent decision-making. Clear communication with patients regarding the limits of what can realistically be achieved-given both the complexity of injury and systemic constraints-is another cornerstone of ethically sound, resource-aware care. Emerging tools such as mobile device-based alignment apps have shown early promise in providing intraoperative guidance. For example, Jiménez-Pérez et al. demonstrated the technical feasibility and

ergonomic potential of mobile devices to assist with bone fracture reduction in real time, particularly when traditional navigation systems are unavailable [15]. These innovations may enhance intraoperative decision-making and training, though further clinical validation is needed.

## **Study Limitations and Future Directions.**

This narrative review is limited by the scarcity of high-quality, targeted studies addressing intraoperative assessment of tibial plateau fractures specifically in low-resource settings. The reliance on extrapolated data and conceptual transfer from related orthopaedic contexts may introduce bias or overgeneralization. Additionally, the absence of quantitative analysis limits direct comparison between techniques. Future research should focus on prospective trials or implementation studies evaluating pragmatic tools- such as enhanced fluoroscopy protocols, tactile training curricula, or mobile-assisted assessment-within real-world low-resource environments. Collaborative efforts between academic centres and global surgery networks could drive innovation tailored to underserved settings and inform evidence-based guidelines.

## **Conclusion.**

Effective intraoperative assessment of tibial plateau fracture reduction remains a cornerstone of successful orthopaedic care. In low-resource settings, where advanced technologies may be unavailable, reliance on fundamental fracture management principles-including preoperative templating on plain radiographs, detailed assessment of available imaging, and thoughtful intraoperative planning-becomes paramount.

Techniques such as direct visualization, tactile evaluation, and anatomical landmark alignment remain highly relevant. While mobile device-assisted tools and 3D printing offer exciting potential, their integration must be grounded in clinical pragmatism and contextual appropriateness. Equally important is maintaining transparent communication with patients about achievable outcomes based on local constraints and injury complexity.

Strengthening core surgical competencies, fostering innovation appropriate to resource limitations, and advocating for context-specific research will be essential to advancing equitable orthopaedic trauma care worldwide.

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