INTRA-OPERATIVE ARTHROGRAPHY IN OPEN REDUCTION OF CONGENITAL HIP DISLOCATION

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The use of an arthrogram in the pre-operative evaluation of congenital dislocation of the hip is well documented (Crawford and Carothers 1982), but its use after completing an open reduction is less well known. Usually,

Fig. 1

the reduction is confirmed by an intra-operative roentgenogram. However, there are some cases in which the relationship between the femoral head and the acetabulum cannot be readily discerned from these films; either because the femoral head is not yet ossified, or because the films are not of sufficiently high quality. Lack of clarity may stem from poor radiological equipment, but sometimes it is due to osteoporosis resulting from prolonged traction (Sharrard 1971; Tachdjian 1972) or from immobilisation (Rose 1966; Pennock et al 1972; Uthoff and Jaworski 1978).

To overcome these difficulties we use the following technique. First, we impregnate a piece of sterile gauze with 50% strength Hypaque solution, wrap this around the femoral head, and then reduce the head. The resultant arthrogram clearly demonstrates the relationship between the femoral head and the acetabulum (Fig. 1).

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