

Averting Amputation

Angelo was driving a motorcycle home from school when he was hit by a drunk truck driver. The 17-year-old sustained multiple fractures and complications, requiring 12 surgeries. Eventually, Angelo's doctors recommended amputating his left leg.

He vehemently refused and returned home, but was despondent. His family had to sell their pigs, chickens, and water buffalo to pay the medical bills. They were financially and emotionally drained.

"When I saw Angelo for the first time, my heart bled for this kid and his family," says Dr. Jun Valera, a SIGN Surgeon in Davao, Philippines. Because Dr. Jun had implants donated by SIGN, he was able to perform the surgery Angelo needed.

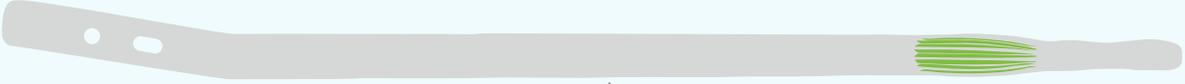
"The Fin Nail was indeed very stable, and we were able to fix the fracture well," says Dr. Jun. "It was the perfect tool for this case."

Two months after SIGN Surgery, Angelo was able to walk for the first time in nearly two years. He is back in school and working hard to finish his studies so that he can get a job and help his family.

"He was told that he might get amputated, but now he walks perfectly and is now filled with so much hope, vigor, and enthusiasm," says Dr. Jun. "Thank you SIGN."



Angelo was told his leg should be amputated. Dr. Jun used a SIGN Implant to heal his fracture and help him walk again a few weeks later.



FIN is the future.



By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

As a family rises out of poverty, they can afford a \$500 motorcycle, which becomes the family vehicle. These motorcycles crowd the roads and result in more accidents and fractures. Crowded roads lead to crowded hospital wards. The rising number of trauma injuries is overwhelming the capacity of the facilities and staff. SIGN is providing the implants to treat these fractures, but we also need to enable surgeons to perform the surgeries more efficiently.

The SIGN Fin Nail is ideal for femur fractures in both adult and pediatric

patients. The surgery takes less time because placing the interlocking screws at the far end of the nail is no longer necessary. This has stimulated us to assess the results of the Fin Nail, which we find are equivalent to those results of the standard SIGN Nails. We have also inquired about the SIGN Surgeons who were placing the SIGN Fin Nail and find that many of the surgeons have minimal orthopaedic training. These surgeons are very conscientious and their results are excellent. They frequently send the x-rays before the surgery to seek consultation about the different possibilities,

which makes them excellent and humble surgeons.

By enabling more surgeons to perform healing surgery in less time, we are helping hospitals in developing countries become more efficient, which leads to better outcomes for their poor patients.

As we continue to study the results of SIGN Surgeries, we are contemplating new product ideas to achieve even better results. Our engineering and manufacturing staff are constantly innovating to provide the best products to treat the injured poor.



Road traffic accidents kill 1.25 million people every year, according to the World Health Organization. For every death, there are 10-40 more people who survive but are burdened with disabling injuries, including fractures.

Info about the Fin Nail

Proven Success

The SIGN Surgical Database is a teaching tool. Dr. Zirkle and surgeons on the SIGN Board review each case and provide daily mentorship. This year we are starting to use the database in new ways. We are analyzing the data of more than 125,000 cases to verify our assumptions and learn how we can improve processes and equipment.



With the increased use of the Fin Nail, we needed to verify that it is as effective as the standard SIGN Nail to help patients achieve healing. By examining x-rays and follow-up reports, we have determined that the SIGN Fin Nail is as effective as the standard SIGN Nail in achieving healing in comparable fractures. We will continue to study the results of this research. More details and guidelines will be available at the SIGN Conference.

This summer, SIGN Engineering Intern Matthew Moen researched the effectiveness of the SIGN Fin Nail, as well as researching the longevity of



Matthew Moen

Matthew is headed back to Gonzaga University for his senior year studying mechanical engineering.

He plans to pursue a graduate degree in biomedical engineering.

Fin Nail Use Per Year



SIGN Instruments, helping us determine when parts of the SIGN Set need to be replaced.

Benefits of the Fin Nail

1. Fins on the nail embed in the bone, replacing the distal screw used with the standard SIGN Nail.
2. The Fin Nail also stabilizes a fractured femur by providing three-point fixation at the fin, the center of the nail, and the proximal screw.
3. Surgery time is 30 minutes shorter because the fin takes the place of the distal screw, which is the most difficult and time-consuming part of SIGN Surgery.
4. The learning curve is shorter because the surgery is simpler. More surgeons can use SIGN Fin Nails without specialized training.
5. Using the fin helps to avoid putting screws in high-stress areas of the femur, which can weaken the already stressed bone.

Giving Ideas

Employer Matching

Many employers match donations to charities. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how your donation to SIGN can go further.



IRA Check with your CPA to see if you are eligible to give a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA account directly to SIGN.



Stocks and Bonds

When doing your year-end tax planning, consult with your CPA about donating stocks and bonds to SIGN. Not only will your gift help heal, but you may receive some valuable tax advantages as well.



For more information, email finance@signfracturecare.org

Support SIGN While You Shop

On each site listed below, log in to your account and choose SIGN Fracture Care International as your charity. Thank you!



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