Fractures of the phalanges

Objectives
1. Describe a treatment approach for fractures of the phalanges
2. Describe indication(s) for open reduction of fractures of the phalanges

Discussion

Fractures of the phalanges in children are not common. They are usually a result of kicking a structure less yielding than a toe, or from a falling object. Management is based on clinical assessment. Taping the injured to the uninjured adjacent toe almost always suffices for treatment, a shortleg cast may be used for additional immobilization if necessary. The nailbeds should be exposed to ensure that malrotation of the injured toe is not present. Open reduction has been described for a displaced fracture of the physis.

References