

### Personal experience

As a subspecialty shoulder surgeon in clinical practice, I have seen consistently good outcomes with surgical management, with low rate of hardware irritation and need for hardware removal. While my results are anecdotal, newer second-generation clavicle plating systems are lower profile than first-generation systems. When combined with careful surgical technique, the need for secondary surgery for plate removal is low. Further studies are required to evaluate whether second-generation systems demonstrate reduced rates of secondary surgery for removal.

In my own clinical practice I have found that surgical management of displaced mid-shaft clavicle fractures results in more rapid return to activity and function with high patient satisfaction. Because of this experience, and after reviewing the risks and benefits of both surgical and conservative management with each patient, I continue to choose surgical stabilization to manage the majority of displaced mid-shaft clavicle fractures, particularly in young, active patients.

### More information and assistance

If you would like further information or assistance in choosing the appropriate treatment strategy for a worker patient with a displaced mid-shaft clavicle fracture, please contact a medical advisor in your nearest WorkSafeBC office.

—David Sheps, MD, MSc, MBA,  
FRCS  
WorkSafeBC Orthopaedic  
Consultant

### References

Available at [bcmj.org](http://bcmj.org).

### Dr Alice P. “Teddy” Suiker, 1927–2014



Dr Suiker’s travel-filled life began at an early age. The year after Alice was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, the Suiker family immigrated to Canada on the RMS *Alaunia*, arriving in Quebec and traveling by train to Vancouver. The household expanded to include six lively younger sisters and one brother. With hard work and plenty of fun and adventure, Alice completed high school and then her BSc degree through the University of British Columbia and Brigham Young University. She then joined the bone metabolism laboratory of physiologist Dr Harold Copps, who astutely recognized Alice’s abilities and potential and encouraged her to enter the UBC Faculty of Medicine in 1957.

Dr Suiker’s career in family medicine took her to Kitimat, where she met the love of her life, Matt Gooding, and inherited 3 children and eventually enjoyed 30 nieces and nephews. Moves then occurred to St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, and later to Montreal, where Dr Suiker became an assistant professor at the McGill Faculty of Medicine. In 1977 the family moved to Tsetis Island, BC, and Alice joined the Cowichan medical community as its first female practitioner. For the last 15 years of her career, Dr Suiker served in Native and remote settlements in Fort Nelson, Slokan, Dease Lake, Barriere, and Mistissini on James Bay, finally retiring in 2012 at the age of 85 years.

Although she was a deeply private person, Alice always revealed her cheerful, positive demeanor. A loyal and supportive colleague, she offered her patients exemplary care and brought an infectious sense of enthusiasm to her profession. As one of her close friends stated, “I think she really loved being a doctor.” She was known for her hugs and greetings of “Hi-ya, Hon!” Indeed, she had a wonderful, generous character.

Thirty years ago, in the era when the Union Club in Victoria was an all-male bastion, a few male physician buddies (of questionable reputation) secreted Alice into the Great Snooker Room where, after a few games and refreshments, it was decided that it would be remiss to not record the historic occasion, so Alice printed the words “ALICE WAS HERE” on one of the old English oak support timbers in pink cue chalk. We are told that it remains to this day.

—Donald R. Hilton, MD, FRCPC  
Chemainus

### Recently deceased physicians

If a BC physician you knew well is recently deceased, consider submitting a piece for our “In Memoriam” section in the *BCMJ*. Include the deceased’s dates of birth and death, full name and the name the deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution photo. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 500 words. Send the content and photo by e-mail to [journal@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:journal@doctorsofbc.ca).