Isolated radial head dislocation in children: Actually exist?

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In 1994, Lincoln and Mubarak reported that an “isolated” radial head dislocation does not, in fact, exist, although the literature is replete with reports describing traumatic isolated radial head dislocations. Probably most cases of “isolated” radial head dislocation in children are associated with plastic bowing of the ulna, which can be radiographically recognized as the ulnar bow sign.

Case 1
5 years old. Girl
• Isolated radial head dislocation?

• Missed Dx of Monteggia fracture?

• Radial head dislocation with Plastic bowing, occult fracture, or elasticity of the ulna?
Ulnar Bow sign : Negative
Post reduction 10 weeks
Case 2
7 Years old, girl, Right elbow
No definite ulnar bow sign
MRI: No signal change
Bone scan : Negative
Post reduction 4 moths
Post reduction 4 months
Isolated radial head dislocation actually exist? YES!

“Ulnar bow sign” : the clue for diagnosis of Monteggia fracture (ulnar plastic bowing)?
Case 3
10 y-old, Girl
No definite Ulnar Bow sign
Easy closed reduction without ulnar osteotomy or repair of annular ligament
Case 4
• 10 Y, Girl
• Rt distal radius fracture
• Incidental finding: ipsilateral radial head D/L
• No ulnar bowing sign
Left : No definite bow sign
Right: No definite bow sign
• Bilateral Congenital Radial Head Dislocation?

• Bilateral Neglected Monteggia Fracture?

• Bilateral Isolated Radial Head Dislocation?
Thank You So Much for Your Attention