



Fig. E-1  
Age distribution of the participants within the two randomized groups.

TABLE E-1 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria	
Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<p>Fractures considered by the referring physician to require operative intervention</p> <p>Adults (skeletally mature) with high-demand requirements of the wrist and in whom the radiographic appearance of the bone suggests that it is robust enough to tolerate internal fixation</p> <p>Fractures of the distal part of the radius that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dorsally displaced (<math>\geq 20^\circ</math>) extra-articular fractures (with or without an undisplaced intra-articular component) with dorsal cortical comminution as seen on the lateral radiograph</li><li>● Displaced intra-articular fractures with an articular step-off or gap in the radiocarpal joint surface</li></ul> <p>Configuration is such that the fracture would be amenable to stabilization via the volar locking plate (not unreconstructable)</p>	<p>Patients with concomitant systemic disease (diabetes with vascular or neurological complications, or advanced cardiac, pulmonary, or neurological disease)</p> <p>Proximal metaphyseal fractures (<math>&gt;2.5</math> cm from the articular surface)</p> <p>Open fractures</p> <p>Smith and volar Barton configuration</p> <p>Substantial preexisting radiographic abnormality</p> <p>Multiple injuries</p> <p>Bilateral injuries</p> <p>Previous fractures of the distal part of the radius of the same or contralateral limb</p> <p>Patients with inadequate understanding of English</p> <p>Patients who are unable to consent to treatment</p>

**TABLE E-2 Demographic Characteristics**

	Volar Locking-Plate Group (N = 66)	Conventional (Control) Group (N = 64)
Age* (yr)	48 ± 15	51 ± 16
Sex		
Women (no. [%])	47 (71%)	50 (78%)
Dominance		
Right (no. [%])	61 (92%)	60 (94%)
Mechanism† (no. [%])		
Low energy	41 (62%)	41 (64%)
High energy	25 (38%)	23 (36%)
Occupation (no. [%])		
Clerical	24 (36%)	20 (31%)
Light manual	13 (20%)	11 (17%)
Heavy manual	10 (15%)	4 (6%)
Fine skill	1 (2%)	0
Not employed	18 (27%)	29 (45%)
Self-employed	3 (5%)	2 (3%)
Smokers (no. [%])	15 (23%)	15 (23%)
Use of regular prescription medication‡ (no. [%])	27 (41%)	25 (39%)

\*The values are given as the mean and standard deviation. †Low energy = fall from standing height, and high energy = fall from above standing height or sport or road-traffic accident. ‡Use of regular prescription medication was used as an indicator of the presence or absence of relevant medical history.