

AUTHORS' REPLY

We would like to thank Dr. Abendschein for his interest in our paper "Failure of the Vari-Angle Hip Screw System: Two Cases." We have had extensive experience with the VHS and found that it functioned well for most intertrochanteric fractures. Although it does have the advantage of reducing inventory and precisely adjusting the neck-shaft angle, it is more prominent than other devices, and the senior author has largely stopped using this implant.

We agree that the VHS does not appear to have an overall increased complication rate, but we do feel that it has been less well studied than the classic hip screw devices. The point of our paper was not to review the complex subject of peritrochanteric fractures, but to point out a

unique failure mode for the VHS, namely collapse of the neck-sleeve ratchet mechanism resulting in varus malunion. We postulated that this is more likely to occur in unstable fracture patterns. The precise incidence of this failure mode is not known, as there have been few studies focused specifically on the VHS. Finally, minor degrees of varus collapse may not be easily appreciated and may be associated with a good clinical outcome.

Authors' Disclosure Statement. Drs. Georgiadis and Nowicki report no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to their article.

Gregory Minas Georgiadis, MD
Toledo, Ohio