INTRODUCTION

- Volar locked plate fixation has become commonplace in treatment of distal radius fractures.
- Locked screws are routinely used distally:
  - Fixed angle stability in area of poor bone quality
  - Allows for unicortical fixation
  - Minimize extensor complications
- Many implants are designed with locking options for the shaft screws
- Indication for use of locking shaft screws is not well established
- Locking screws are often used in areas of osteoporotic bone
- There is a high incidence of low bone mineral density in patients with DR fracture
- Routine use of nonlocking shaft screws does not seem to yield poor results

PURPOSE AND HYPOTHESIS

The purpose of this study was:
- To assess radiographic outcomes and incidence of hardware failure in a cohort of patients treated with a volar plate with non-locking shaft screws.

We hypothesized that:
- Routine use of locking screws in the shaft portion of volar plates is not required to maintain reduction or to prevent hardware failure.