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# Advanced Emergency Trauma Course

## Orthopedic Trauma



Presenter: Patrick Carter, MD

Ghana Emergency Medicine Collaborative

Patrick Carter, MD • Daniel Wachter, MD • Rockefeller Oteng, MD • Carl Seger, MD

# Objectives

## ■ General Principles of Fracture Management

- Fracture Mechanisms
- Salter-Harris Fractures
- Fracture Complications

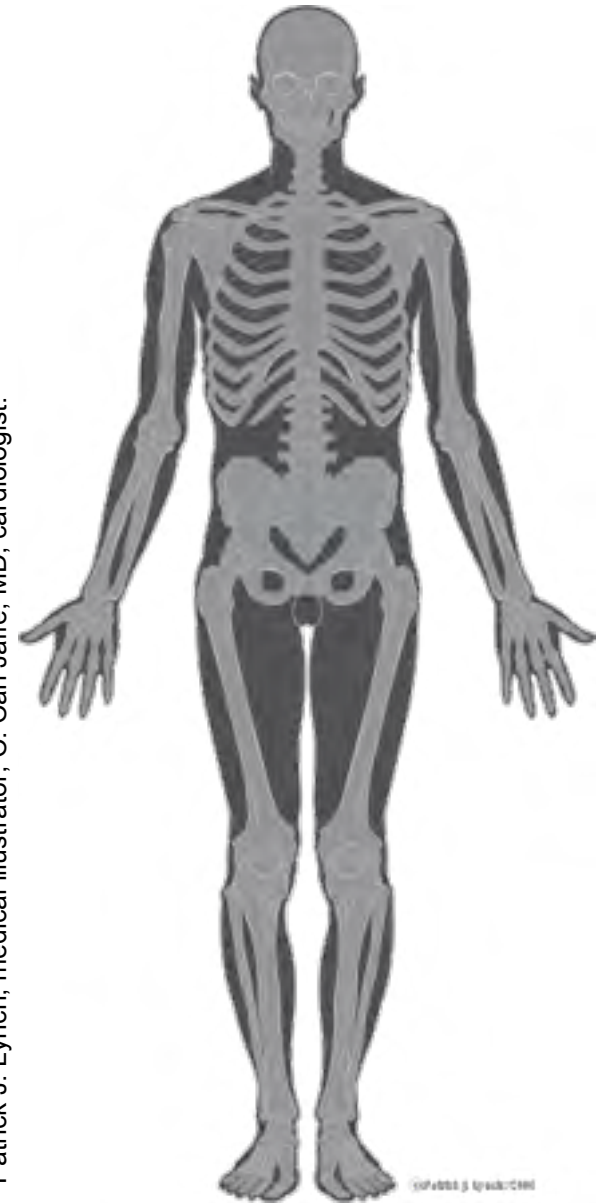
## ■ Upper Extremity Injuries

- Shoulder
- Arm
- Forearm
- Wrist
- Hand

## ■ Lower Extremity Injuries

- Pelvis
- Hip
- Femur
- Lower leg
- Ankle
- Foot

Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator; C. Carl Jaffe, MD, cardiologist.



[Wikipedia](#)

# GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES

Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator; C. Carl Jaffe, MD, cardiologist.



[Wikipedia](#)

# Fracture Mechanisms

## ■ Direct Trauma

- “Tapping” Fracture – E.g. Nightstick
  - Linear fracture with two fragments and little or no soft tissue damage
- Crush Fracture
  - Comminuted or transverse fracture
  - Extensive soft tissue damage
- Penetrating Fracture (seen with GSW or missile wounds)
  - High velocity injuries with fragmentation of bone
  - Bone fragments act as secondary missiles, causing cavitation and extensive soft tissue injury
  - Also Low velocity injuries with mild fragmentation

## ■ Indirect Trauma

- Traction Fracture
  - Bone is pulled apart = Transverse fracture
- Angulation Fracture
  - Bending along the long axis of the bone = Transverse fracture with concave surface
- Compression Fracture
  - Compression on long axis of the bone from axial loading = T or Y fractures
- Spiral Fracture
  - Results from rotational stress and results in an oblique fracture

# Types of Fractures

- Complete Fractures
  - Fracture involving both cortical surfaces
- Incomplete Fractures
  - Only one cortex is disrupted
  - Two types:
    - Torus fracture = Buckle fracture = Buckling of one cortex
    - Greenstick fracture = Break in one cortex and bending or bowing of other cortex
- Closed Fractures
  - No communication with external environment
- Open Fractures
  - Communication with external environment through break in skin and soft tissue
  - High risk for infection (Osteomyelitis)

# Complete vs. Incomplete Fracture

## ■ Complete Fracture

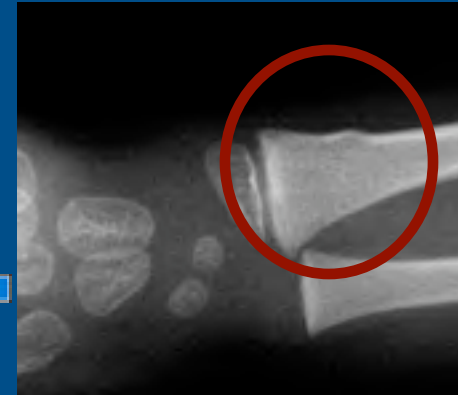


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<http://blogs.chron.com/realrehab/archives/2006/09/>

## ■ Incomplete Fracture

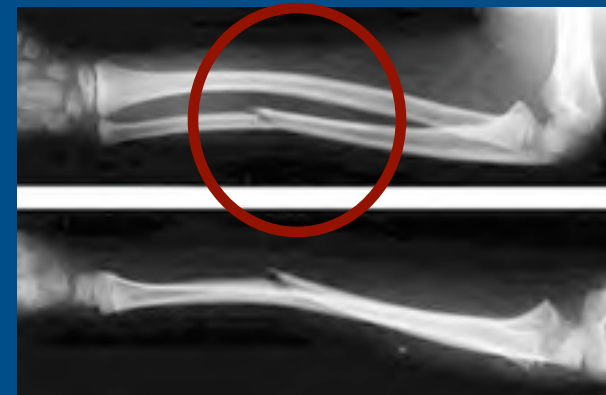
### • Torus Fracture



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Cmiked ([flickr](#))

### • Greenstick Fracture



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[http://www.portfolio.mvm.ed.ac.uk/studentwebs/session4/45/samplecases\\_files/greenstick%20fracture%20of%20the%20ulna.jpg](http://www.portfolio.mvm.ed.ac.uk/studentwebs/session4/45/samplecases_files/greenstick%20fracture%20of%20the%20ulna.jpg)



# Closed vs. Open Fractures

- Closed Fracture



 PD-GOV

NIH ([Wikipedia](#))

- Open Fracture



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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Left\\_wrist\\_fracture.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Left_wrist_fracture.jpg)

# Types of Fractures

## ■ Pathologic Fractures

- Bone weakness secondary to underlying disease process
- Suspect when trivial injury results in fracture
- E.g. Paget's disease, Tumor, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Rickets, Scurvy

## ■ Stress Fractures

- Also termed “march” or “fatigue” fracture
- Repeat of cyclical stress results in a fracture, typically in lower extremities
- Typically accompanied by a sudden increase in level of training

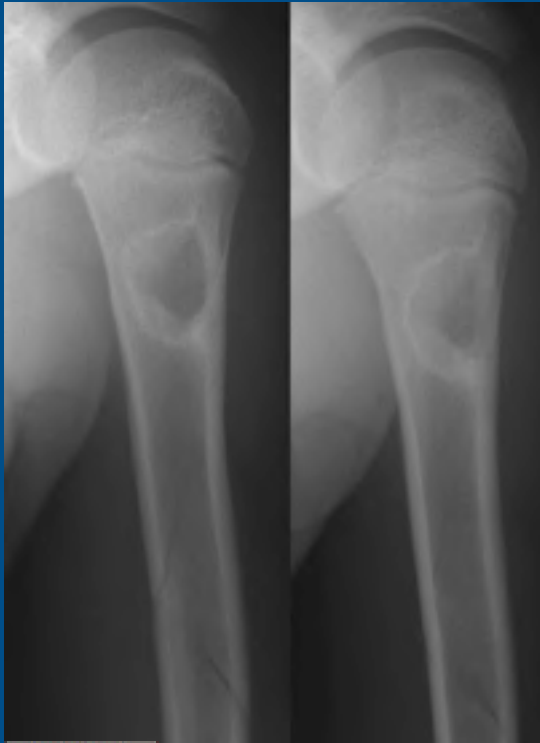
## ■ Joint Disruption

- Dislocation = Complete disruption of articular surface
- Subluxation = Incomplete disruption of articular surface

# Other Types of Fractures

## ■ Pathologic Fractures

- Fx. through bone cyst



<http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v6c01.html>

## ■ Stress Fractures

- Stress Fx. 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsal



[http://www.customfootandarch.com/foot-problems/Stress\\_Fract.html](http://www.customfootandarch.com/foot-problems/Stress_Fract.html)

# Salter-Harris Fractures

- Epiphyseal growth plate is weaker than supporting ligaments
  - Growth Plate (Physis) is made up of cartilage cells that are weaker than the supporting ligaments
- Salter-Harris fractures are fractures involving long bones in children and involve the growth plate or joint surface
  - Most common in children 10-16 (80%)
  - More common in males due to delayed skeletal maturation and increased physical activity compared with females of same age
- May lead to growth complications
  - Blood supply to the growth plate comes through the epiphysis and the worse the injury to the epiphysis, the greater the likelihood of growth disturbances
- Fractures are categorized on scale 1-5 and increasing number indicates increasing potential for growth complications

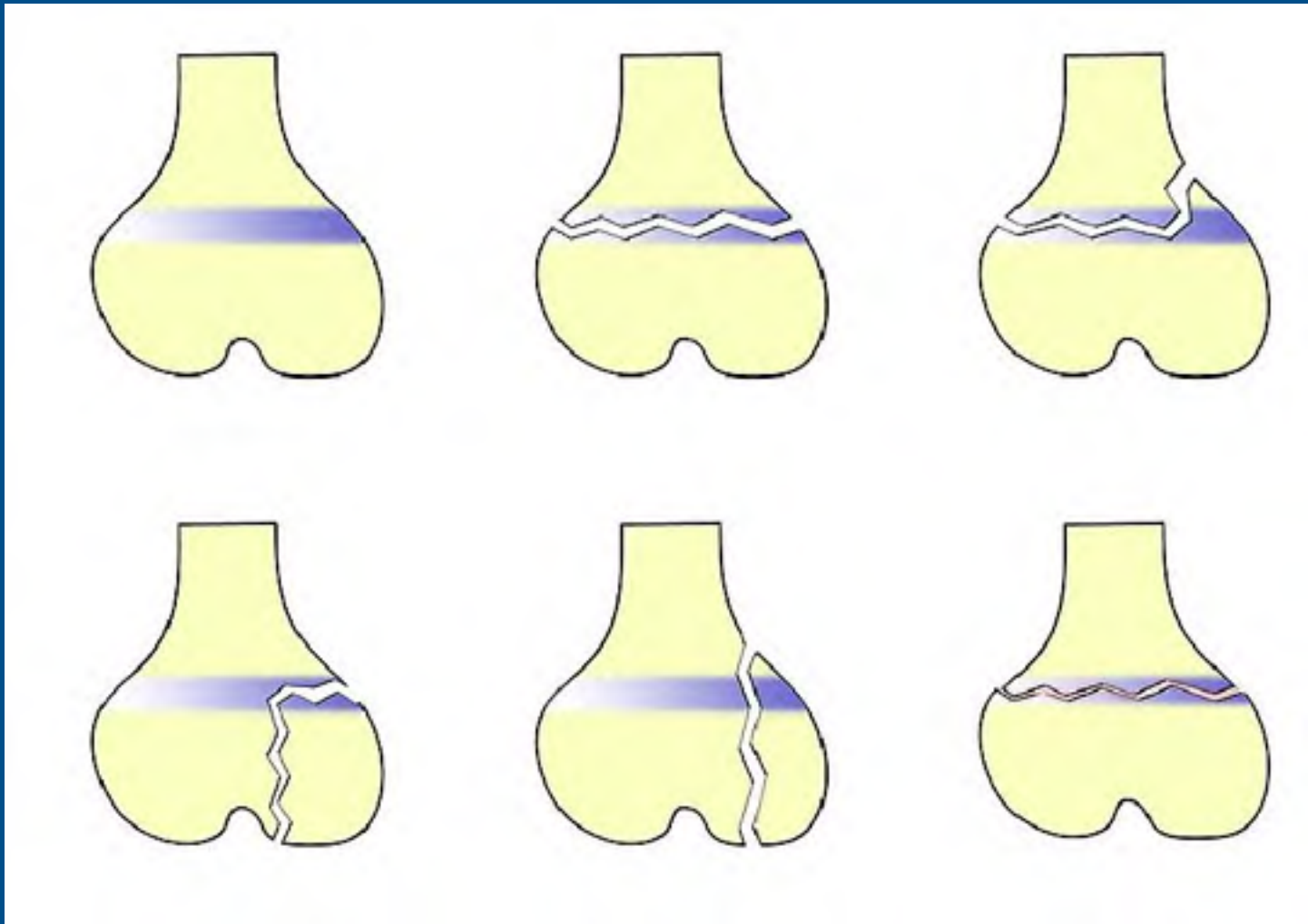
# Salter-Harris Classification

- Type 1 = Fracture through Epiphyseal Plate
  - Results in separation of epiphysis
  - Good Prognosis
- Type 2 = Fracture of Metaphysis with extension through Epiphyseal plate
  - Most common type in children > 10 y/o
  - Good Prognosis
- Type 3 = Fracture of the Epiphysis with extension into the Epiphyseal plate
  - Totally Intra-articular fracture
  - Open reduction necessary
- Type 4 = Fracture through Epiphysis, Metaphysis and Epiphyseal plate
  - Complete intra-articular fracture
  - Open reduction necessary
  - Growth disturbance likely if not perfect reduction
- Type 5 = Crush Fracture of the Epiphyseal plate
  - Most common in knee and ankle
  - X-ray can be deceptively normal looking
  - Poor prognosis because blood supply to epiphysis is disrupted

# Salter Harris Classification

- How to remember the classification?
  - SALTER Mnemonic
  - **S** = Slip through the growth plate
  - **A** = Above the level of the growth plate
  - **L** = Lower than the growth plate
  - **T** = Through the growth plate
  - **R** = Ram the growth plate

# Salter-Harris Classification



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Dr Frank Gaillard (MBBS, FRANZCR) ([Wikipedia](#))

# Complications of Fractures

- Immediate Complications
- Intermediate Complications
- Long Term Complications



# Immediate Complications

- Hemorrhage
  - Can be extensive especially with Pelvic Fractures
- Vascular Injuries
  - Anterior Shoulder Dislocation = Axillary Artery
  - Extension Supracondylar Fracture = Brachial Artery
  - Posterior Elbow Dislocation = Brachial Artery
  - Knee Dislocation = Popliteal Artery
- Nerve Injuries
  - Anterior Shoulder Dislocation = Axillary Nerve Injury
  - Humeral Shaft Fractures = Radial Nerve Injury
  - Supracondylar Fracture = Medial, Radial and Ulnar Nerve Injury
  - Medial Epicondyle = Ulnar Nerve Injury
  - Post Elbow Dislocation = Ulnar/Medial Nerve Injury
  - Olecranon = Ulnar Nerve Injury
  - Acetabular Fracture = Sciatic Nerve Injury
  - Posterior Hip Dislocation = Sciatic Nerve Injury
  - Anterior Hip Dislocation = Femoral Nerve Injury
  - Knee Dislocation = Peroneal/Tibial Nerve Injury
  - Lateral Tibial Plateau Fracture = Peroneal Nerve Injury
- Soft Tissue/Visceral Injuries

# Intermediate/Long Term Complications

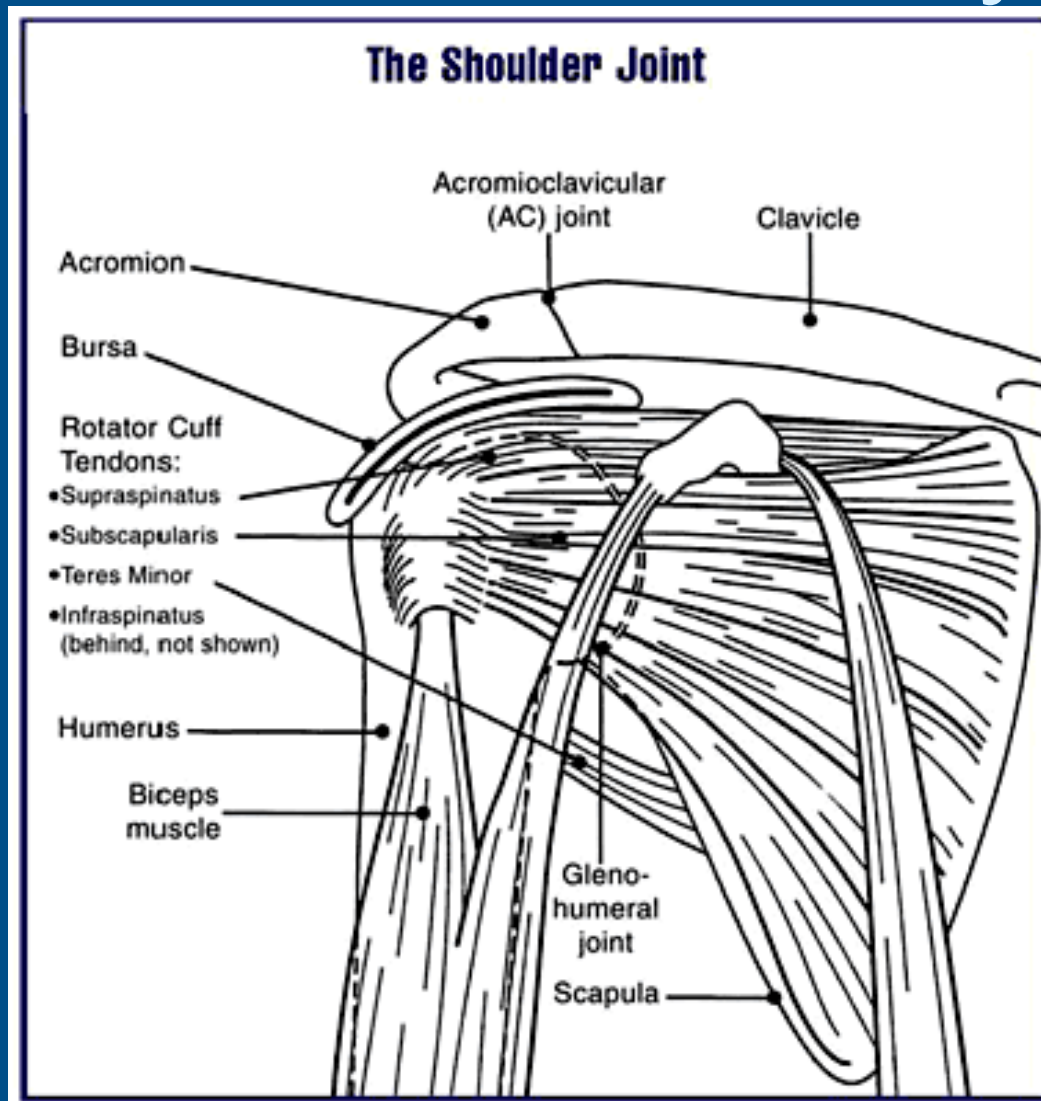
- Intermediate Complications
  - Compartment Syndrome
  - Fat Embolism
- Long-Term Complications
  - Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
  - Volkmann's Ischemic Contracture
  - Non-union
  - Avascular Necrosis
  - Angulation Deformities
  - Infection
  - Joint Stiffness
  - Post-traumatic Ossification or Arthritis

# Compartment Syndrome

- Results from crush injury and fractures to long bones – distal radius, tibial shaft
- Swelling and bleeding in compartment increases pressure to above that able to maintain normal perfusion of affected area
- Most common = Anterior Tibial Compartment
- Symptoms = Pain, Pallor, Paresthesias, Pulseness, Paralysis (5 P' s)
- Diagnosis = Compartment Pressures
  - Indication for surgery = 40-50 mmHg
- Treatment = Fasciotomy

# THE SHOULDER AND UPPER ARM

# Shoulder Anatomy

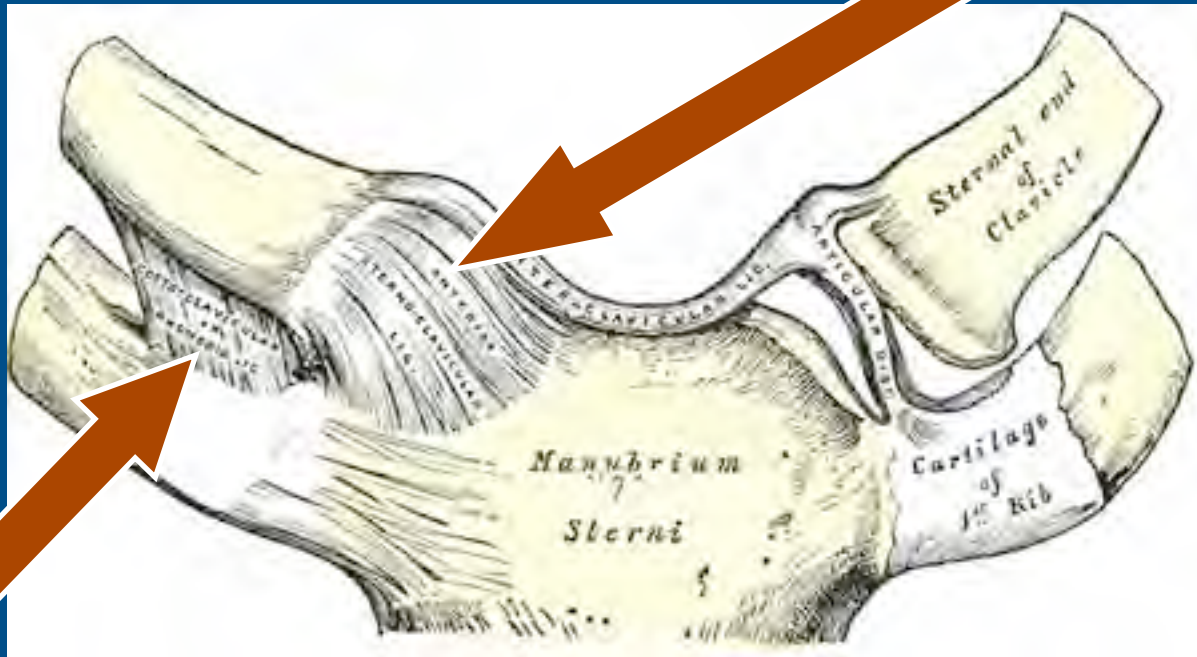


# Joint Injuries

- Sternoclavicular Joint Injuries
- Acromioclavicular Joint Injuries
- Glenohumeral Joint Dislocation

# Sternoclavicular Joint Injuries

1 Sternoclavicular Ligament



Gray's Anatomy (Wikipedia)



2 Costoclavicular Ligament

# Sternoclavicular Joint Injuries

## ■ Classification

- 1<sup>st</sup> Degree = Sprain = Partial tear of sternoclavicular and costoclavicular ligaments with mild subluxation
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree = Subluxation = Complete tear of sternoclavicular ligament with partial tear of costoclavicular ligament
  - Clavicle subluxates from the manubrium on x-ray
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree = Dislocation = Complete tear of both sternoclavicular and costoclavicular ligaments with complete dislocation of clavicle from the manubrium
  - Anterior = Most common
  - Posterior = True Emergency – 25% will have concurrent life-threatening injuries to adjacent mediastinal structures

## ■ Mechanism of Injury

- Direct force over sternoclavicular joint (posterior dislocation)
- Fall onto shoulder with anterior or posterior dislocation



# Sternoclavicular Joint Injuries

## ■ Signs/Symptoms

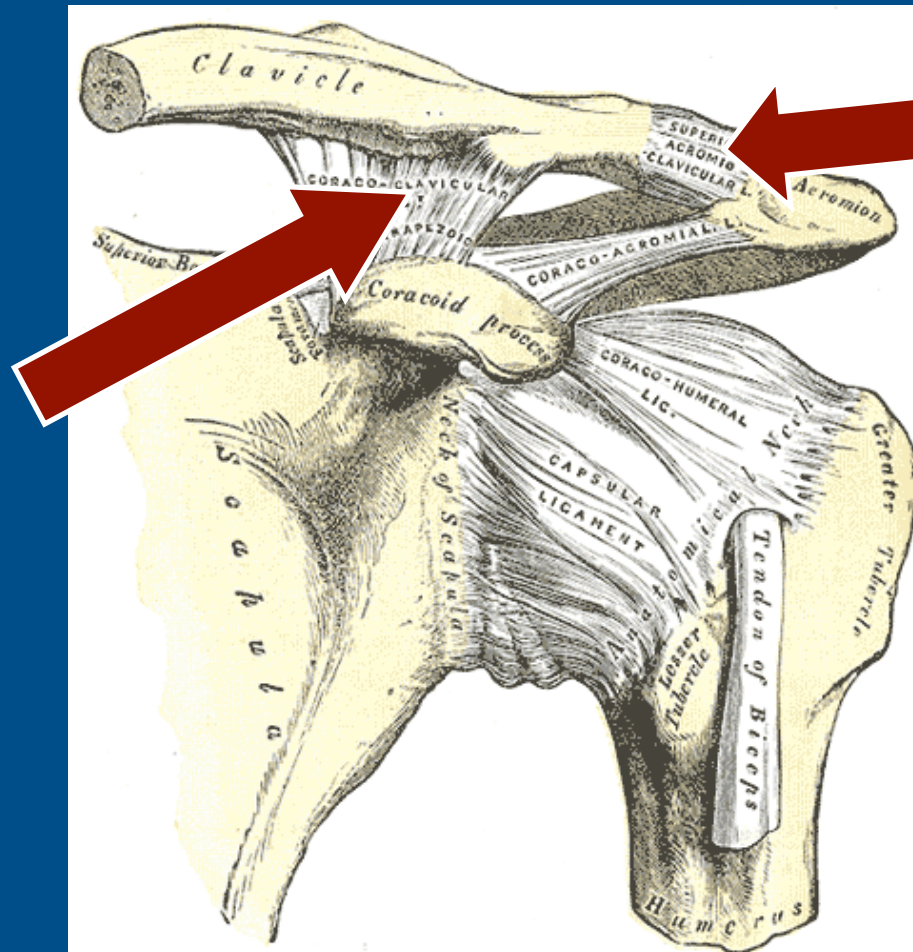
- Tenderness and pain over joint
- Pain with movement of shoulder
- Patients with posterior dislocation = shortness of breath, dysphagia or choking due to compression of mediastinal structures

## ■ X-rays = Regular x-rays or CT for extensive injuries

## ■ Treatment

- 1<sup>st</sup> Degree = Sling x 3-4 days, Analgesia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree = Figure of Eight Clavicular Strap or Arm Sling, Orthopedic Follow-up
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree = Immediate Orthopedic consultation and rapid reduction
  - Posterior dislocation may require reduction in operating theatre
  - Posterior dislocation may need to be reduced with traction on clavicle with towel clip
  - Apply figure of eight strap or arm sling

# Acromioclavicular Joint



1 Acromioclavicular Ligaments

2 Coracoclavicular Ligaments

Gray's Anatomy ([Wikipedia](#))

# Acromioclavicular Joint Injuries

- Classification (AC = Acromioclavicular, CC = Coracoclavicular)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Degree = Sprain = Partial tear of AC ligament, No injury to CC ligament
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree = Subluxation = Complete tear of AC ligament, CC ligament stretched or incompletely torn
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree = Dislocation = Complete tears of AC and CC ligaments with dislocation of clavicle
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Degree = Displacement
    - Type IV = Displacement Posteriorly
    - Type V = Displacement Superiorly
    - Type VI = Displacement Inferiorly
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Fall on outstretched arm
  - Fall on shoulder with arm adducted (most common)
- Signs/Symptoms
  - Tenderness/Swelling over the joint
  - Pain with movement of affected extremity
  - Upward displacement of clavicle (seen with type 3 or worse)

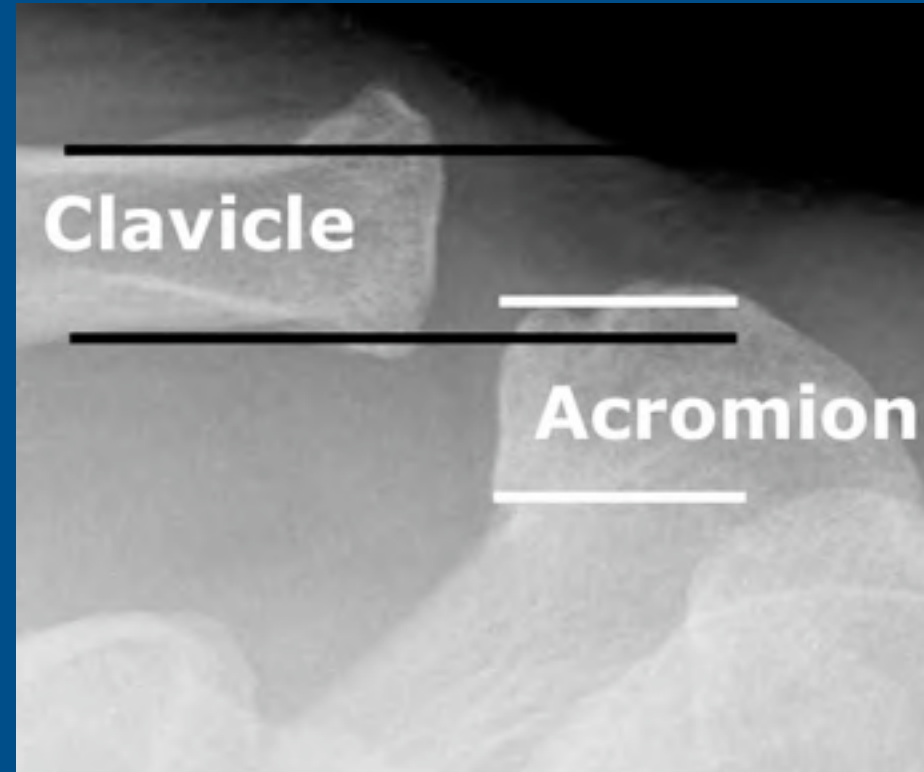
# Acromioclavicular Joint Injuries

- X-rays
  - AP views of clavicle
  - Stress views not commonly used anymore and do not alter course of treatment
  - Findings
    - 1<sup>st</sup> degree = Radiographically normal
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> degree = Increased distance between clavicle and acromion (< 1 cm)
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> degree = Increased distance between the clavicle and acromion (> 1 cm)
- Treatment
  - Type 1 = Sling x 1-2 weeks
  - Type 2 = Sling, Orthopedic referral
  - Type 3 = Immobilize in sling, Prompt orthopedic referral within 72 hours
  - Type 4-6 = Sling, Prompt orthopedic referral, Likely will require surgical management

# Acromioclavicular Separation - III



<http://radiopaedia.org/uploads/images/0002/3685/23685.medium.jpg>



[http://www.so.com.au/Patient\\_information/conditions/shoulder/acj/acj-close-up-Gd-III-2.jpg](http://www.so.com.au/Patient_information/conditions/shoulder/acj/acj-close-up-Gd-III-2.jpg)

# Glenohumeral Joint Dislocation

- Shoulder Dislocation = Most Common dislocation seen in the ED
- Classification
  - Anterior (95-97%)
    - Subcoricoid, Subglenoid, Subclavicular, Intrathoracic
  - Posterior (2-4%)
    - Most commonly missed major dislocation of the body
    - Subacromial (98%), Subglenoid, Subspinous
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Anterior = Abduction, Extension and External Rotation
  - Posterior = Seizure or Electric Shock
    - Fall on forward-flexed, adducted and internally rotated arm
- Signs and Symptoms
  - Prominence of acromion process and flattening of normal contour of the shoulder (anterior)
  - Anterior flatness, posterior fullness and prominence of the coracoid process (posterior)
- X-rays
  - Standard Series = AP Shoulder + Transcapular lateral or Y view
  - Y view is diagnostic in posterior dislocation and without Y view, may be missed

# Glenohumeral Joint Dislocations

## ■ Anterior Dislocation

- Inferior displaced humerus

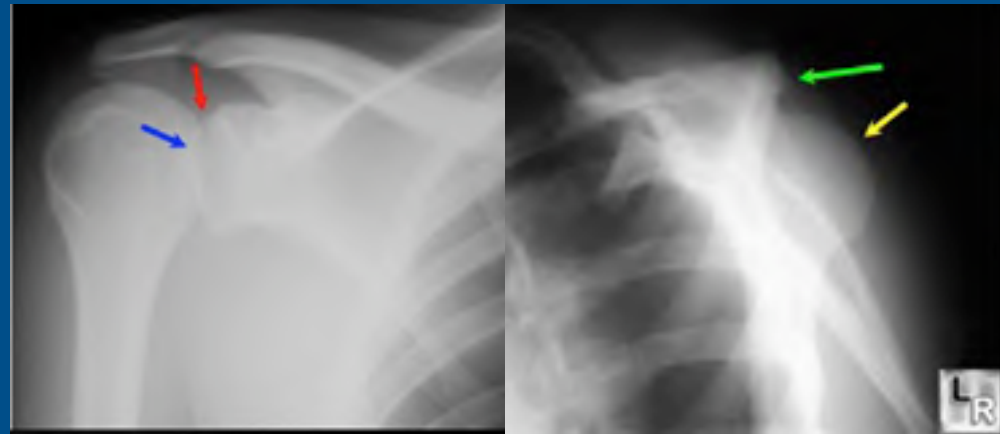


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[http://www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/image/sh\\_pain/should.jpg](http://www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/image/sh_pain/should.jpg)

## ■ Posterior Displacement

- AP = Internal Rotation of humerus = “Light bulb sign”
- Y view = Humeral head displaced



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<http://www.learningradiology.com/caseofweek/caseoftheweekpix/cow105arrows.jpg>

# Glenohumeral Joint Dislocation

## ■ Treatment

- Reduction using a variety of techniques
- Shoulder dislocation with associated fracture should be referred to orthopedics for reduction
- Make sure to evaluate vascular and nerve exam post reduction and obtain a post-reduction film
- After reduction, patient should be placed in shoulder immobilizer and orthopedic follow-up arranged

## ■ Complications

- Recurrence = Most common complication
  - Age related (younger the patient, the more likely of a reoccurrence)
- Bony Injuries
  - Hill-Sachs Deformity = Compression fracture or groove of posterolateral aspect of humeral head
    - Results from impact of humeral head on the anterior glenoid rim as it dislocates or reduces
  - Avulsion of greater tuberosity (Increased in patients > 45 y/o)
  - Bankart's Fracture = Fracture of the glenoid lip
- Nerve Injuries
  - May occur during dislocation or reduction and most neuropraxias will recover over time
  - Axillary nerve (most common) or Musculocutaneous nerve
- Rotator Cuff Tears
- Axillary Artery Injury (rare) – suspect in elderly patients with weak pulse or rapidly expanding hematoma



# Complications

## ■ Hill Sachs Deformity



<http://www.gentili.net/signs/images/400/shoulderhillsachs.JPG>

## ■ Bankart's Fracture



[http://www.mypacs.net/repos/mpv3\\_repo/viz/full/18712/935613.jpg](http://www.mypacs.net/repos/mpv3_repo/viz/full/18712/935613.jpg)

# Shoulder Reduction Techniques

- External Rotation Method (Hennipen Technique)
  - Gentle external rotation
  - If no success, slowly lift abduct arm, lifting humeral head into joint

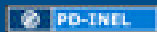


<http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v4c12.html>

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# Shoulder Reduction Techniques

- Traction-Counter traction



<http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v4c12.html>



<http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v4c12.html>

# Shoulder Reduction Techniques

- Scapular Manipulation



# Shoulder Reduction Techniques

- Stimson or Hanging Weight



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<http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v4c12.html>

# Shoulder Reduction Techniques

- Kocher Method



 <http://www.hawaii.edu/medicine/pediatrics/pemxray/v4c12.html>

# Rotator Cuff Injuries

- Rotator cuff is made up of 4 muscles that insert tendons into the greater and lesser tuberosity of the humerus and allows abduction and internal/external rotation of the shoulder
  - SITS MUSCLES = Subscapularis, Supraspinatus, Infraspinatus, Teres minor
- Mechanisms of Injury
  - Acute tear = Forceful abduction of the arm against resistance (e.g. fall on outstretched arm)
  - Chronic tear = 90% = Results from subacromial impingement and decreased blood supply to the tendons (worsens as patient ages)
- Clinical Picture
  - Typically affects males at 40 y/o or later
  - Pain over anterior aspect of shoulder, tearing quality to pain, typically worse at night
  - PE with weak and painful abduction or inability to initiate abduction (if complete tear)
    - Drop arm test – inability to hold arm in 90 degrees abduction
  - Tenderness on palpation of supraspinatus over greater tuberosity
- Imaging
  - In ED, plain film x-rays indicated to exclude fracture and may show degenerative changes and superior displacement of humeral head
  - MRI is diagnostic (not typically done in ED setting)
- Treatment
  - Sling Immobilization, Analgesia, Ortho Referral
  - Complete tears require early surgical repair (< 3 weeks)
  - Chronic tears are managed with immobilization, analgesia and orthopedic follow-up for rehabilitation exercises and possible steroid injection

# Fractures

- Clavicle Fractures
- Scapular Fractures
- Humeral Fractures



# Clavicle Fractures

- Classification
  - Middle 1/3
    - Most common area to fracture (especially in children)
  - Distal 1/3
    - May be associated with ruptured coracoclavicular joint with medial elevation
  - Medial 1/3
    - Uncommon, requires strong injury forces
    - Consider intrathoracic injury (i.e. Subclavian Artery or Vein Injury)
- Mechanism = Fall on outstretched shoulder or direct clavicle trauma
- Symptoms/Signs = Pain, Swelling over fractured region
- Imaging = CXR or dedicated Clavicle films
- Treatment
  - Indications for surgical repair
    - Displaced distal third
    - Open
    - Bilateral
    - Neurovascular Injury
  - Treatment = Sling, Orthopedic Follow-up
    - Non-operative management is successful in 90%

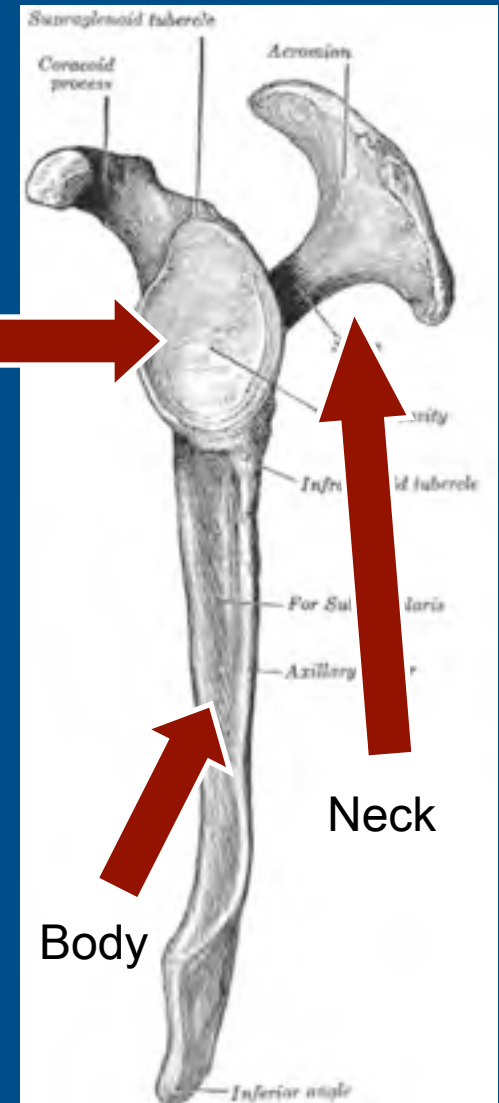
# Clavicle Fracture



# Scapular Fractures

- High Energy Mechanism
  - Look for associated injuries
- Classification (by location of fracture)
  - Body
  - Neck
  - Glenoid
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Direct blow to the scapula
  - Trauma to the shoulder
  - Fall on outstretched arm
- Clinical Features
  - Pain over back side of shoulder
  - Shoulder pain increased with abduction of the arm
- Imaging
  - Routine shoulder x-rays will demonstrate most scapular fractures
  - Axillary lateral view – helpful with fractures of glenoid fossa, acromion, coracoid process
  - CXR – to r/o associated lung or pulmonary injury
- Treatment
  - Sling immobilization x 2 weeks, Early range of motion exercises
  - Orthopedic referral for ORIF for severely displaced or angulated fractures

Glenoid



Neck

Body

# Humeral Fractures

- Types
  - Proximal Humerus Fractures
  - Mid-shaft Humerus Fractures

# Proximal Humerus Fractures

- Classification = Neer Classification System
  - Classification by amount of displacement of four segments
    - Displacement = separation  $> 1$  cm or angulation  $> 45^\circ$
    - Anatomic Neck
    - Surgical Neck
    - Greater Tuberosity
    - Lesser Tuberosity
  - Major Categories
    - One part fracture – No displacement (80-85%) of fractures
    - Two part fracture – Displacement of one fragment
    - Three part fracture – Displacement of two individual fragments from remaining humerus
    - Four part fracture – Displacement of all four segments
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Fall on outstretched arm (most common)
  - Direct blow to lateral aspect of arm
- Clinical Presentation = Upper arm and shoulder pain after fall
  - Most commonly seen in elderly

# Proximal Humerus Fracture



<http://www.wheelsonline.com/image4/i1/prxh1.jpg>

# Proximal Humerus Fractures

- Imaging = Plain film x-ray imaging
- Treatment
  - One part fractures
    - Immobilization with shoulder immobilizer sling and swath, Analgesia, Ortho follow-up
  - Two/Three/Four Part fractures = Immobilize and emergent orthopedic referral
    - Many will require surgical repair
- Complications
  - Adhesive capsulitis = Frozen Shoulder = Most Common – Prevent with early mobilization
  - Neurovascular Injuries = Axillary nerve and artery, brachial plexus
  - Posterior Dislocations = Will frequently accompany lesser tuberosity fractures
  - Avascular necrosis of humeral head especially with anatomic neck fractures

# Mid-shaft Humerus Fractures

- Classification
  - Typically involve middle 1/3 of the humeral shaft
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Direct Blow (Most common)
  - Fall on outstretched arm or elbow
  - Pathologic Fracture (especially Breast Cancer)
- Clinical Presentation
  - Pain and deformity over affected region
  - Associated Injuries
    - Radial Nerve injury = Wrist Drop = Inability of extend wrist, fingers, thumb, Loss of sensation over dorsal web space of 1<sup>st</sup> digit
      - Neuropraxia at time of injury will often resolve spontaneously
      - Nerve palsy after manipulation or splinting is due to nerve entrapment and must be immediately explored by orthopedic surgery
    - Ulnar and Median nerve injury (less common)
    - Brachial Artery Injury



# Mid-shaft Humerus Fractures

- Imaging = Standard x-ray imaging
- Treatment
  - Most managed non-operatively (either):
    - Coaptation splint (sugar tong) plus sling and swath
    - Hanging cast
  - Operative management for patients:
    - Neurovascular compromise, pathologic fractures
- Complications
  - Delayed union
  - Adhesive capsulitis



<http://images.chron.com/blogs/realrehab/archives/pictures/Humerus%20fracture%20B.jpg>

# THE ELBOW AND FOREARM

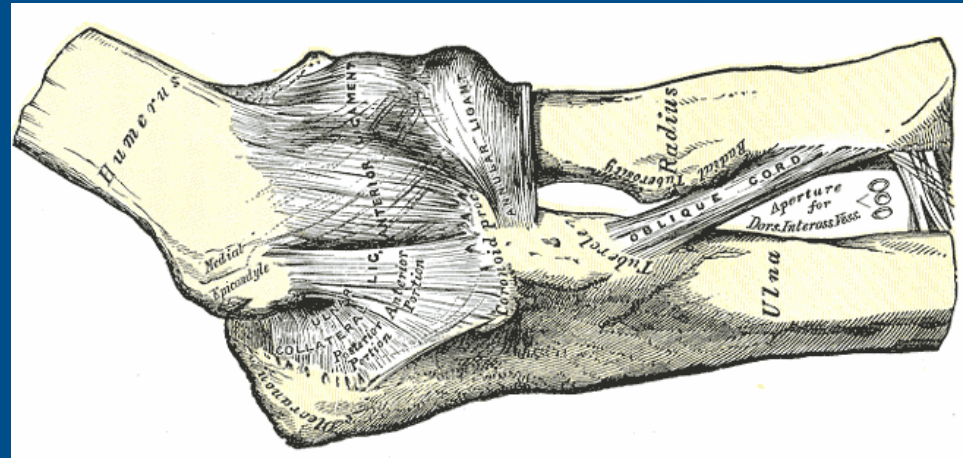
# Elbow Injuries

## ■ Elbow Fractures

- Supracondylar Fractures
- Olecranon Fractures
- Condylar Fractures
- Articular Surface Fractures
- Epicondylar Fractures

## ■ Dislocations

- Posterior Elbow Dislocation
- Anterior Elbow Dislocation
- Radial Head Subluxation (Nursemaid's Elbow)

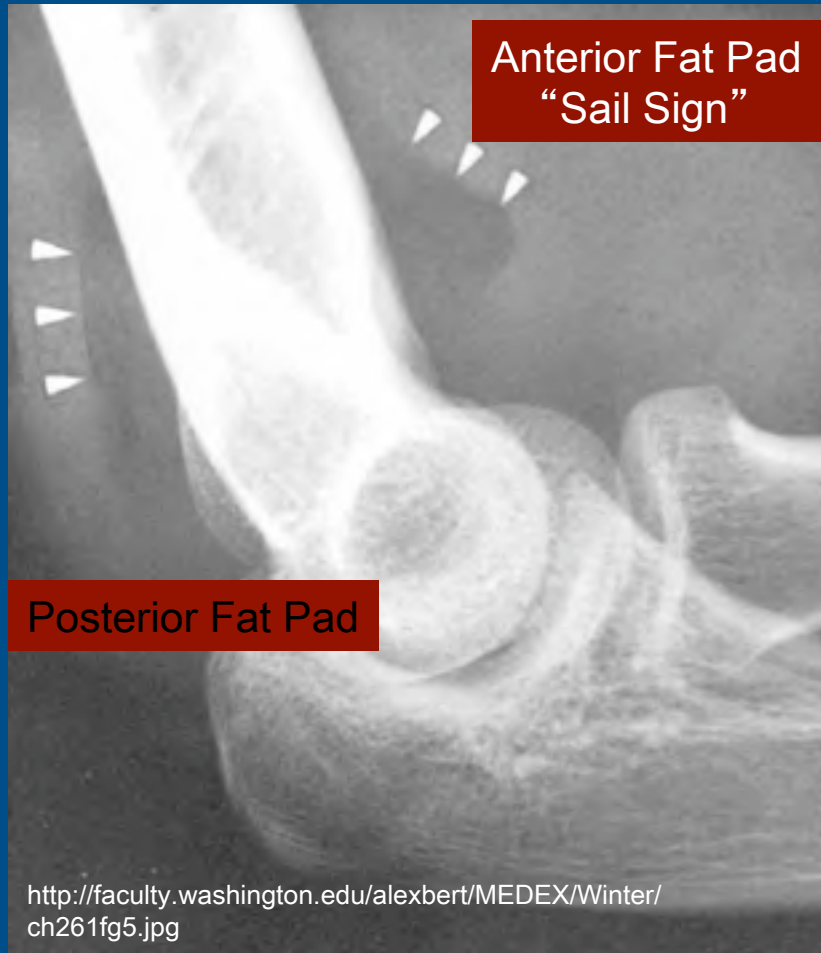


Gray's Anatomy ([Wikipedia](#))

# Radiographic Elbow Evaluation

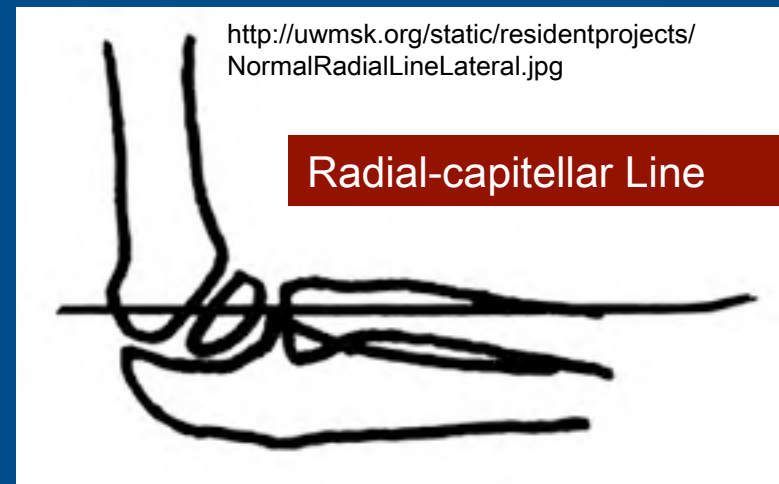
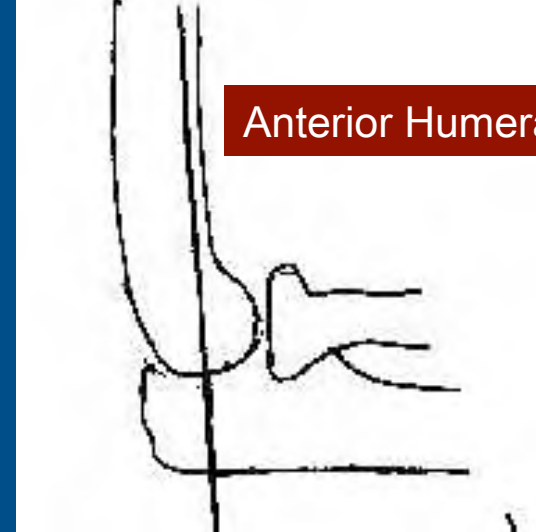
- Elbow radiographic evaluation can be difficult
- True Lateral X-ray = Hourglass or Figure of 8 at distal Humerus
- Fat Pad Signs
  - Posterior Fat Pad Sign = Never seen on normal x-ray imaging
    - Indicates distension of joint capsule by effusion with likely occult fracture
    - Often associated with occult radial head fracture
  - Anterior Fat Pad Sign = Small one may be present on normal x-rays
    - Increased anterior fat pad (sail sign) is abnormal and may indicate fracture
- Anterior Humeral Line
  - Line drawn along anterior surface of humerus and extending through the elbow
  - Normally, transects the middle of the capitellum but with Supracondylar fractures, transects the anterior 1/3 of the capitellum or passes completely anterior to the capitellum
- Radial-Capitellar Line
  - Line drawn through the middle of the radius
  - Normally, transects the middle of the capitellum
  - Abnormal line may indicate radial head dislocation or subtle fracture
- Radial Head Evaluation
  - Carefully inspect the radial head.
  - Fracture may be subtle and only clue may be slight cortical irregularity
- Distal Humerus Evaluation
  - Careful inspection and evaluation of anterior humeral head line

# Elbow Radiographic Evaluation



PD-INEL

<http://www.wheelessonline.com/images/elbow1.jpg>



PD-INEL

<http://uwmsk.org/static/residentprojects/NormalRadialLineLateral.jpg>

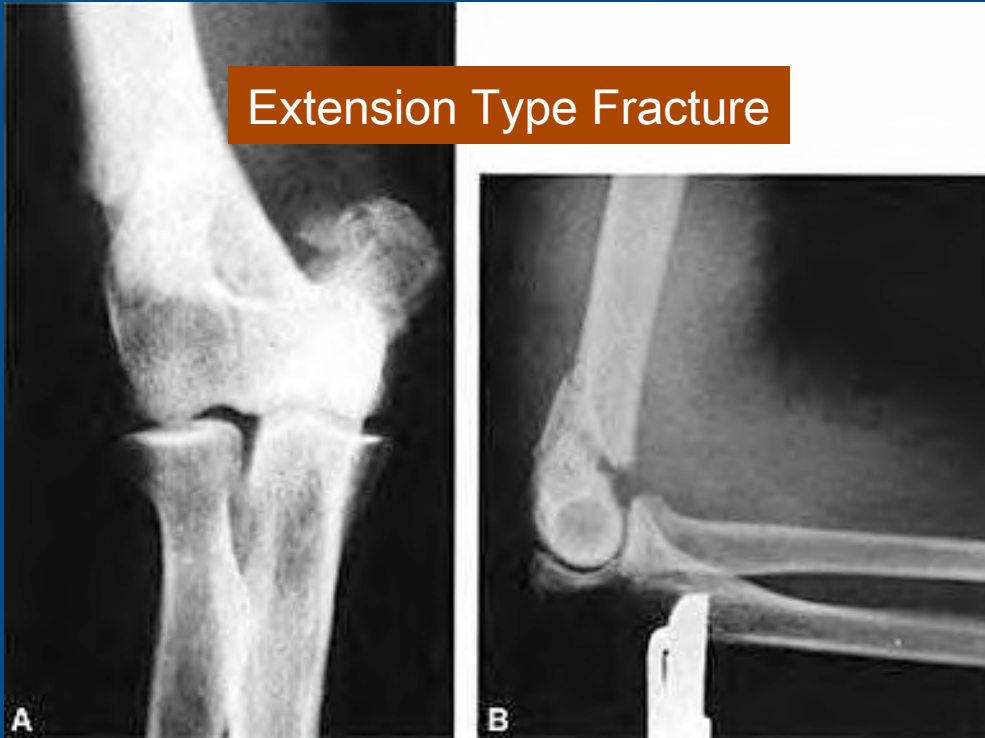
# Supracondylar Fractures

- Supracondylar Extension Fractures (Most Common Type)
  - Mechanism of injury = Fall on outstretched arm with elbow in extension
  - Imaging = Distal humerus fractures and humeral fragment displaced posteriorly
    - Sharp fracture fragments displaced anteriorly with potential for injury of brachial artery and median nerve
  - Treatment
    - Emergent Orthopedic Consultation
    - Non-displaced fracture = Immobilization in posterior splint
      - May be discharged home with close follow-up
    - Displaced fracture = Prompt reduction with percutaneous pin fixation or internal fixation by orthopedic surgeon
      - If vascular compromise on evaluation, ED physician should attempt reduction
  - Complications
    - Compartment syndrome of forearm (Volkmann's ischemia)
    - Median Nerve Injury = Weakness of Flexor Muscles of Hand and loss of two point discrimination of the fingertips
      - Neuropraxias at time of injury should resolve over time

# Supracondylar Fracture

- Supracondylar Flexion Fractures
  - Mechanism of Injury = Direct blow to posterior aspect of flexed elbow
  - Imaging = Distal humerus fracture displaced anteriorly
  - Treatment
    - Non-displaced fractures are treated with splint immobilization and early orthopedic follow-up
    - Displaced fractures require emergent orthopedic consultation for reduction and percutaneous pinning
  - Complications
    - Fractures are frequently open
    - Vascular injury is rare
    - Ulnar nerve injury is most common complication

# Supracondylar Fracture



<http://www.e-radiography.net/articles/ortho/Image13.jpg>



<http://boneandspine.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/flexion-supracondylar-fracture-lateral-view.jpg>



# Other Elbow Fractures

## ■ Olecranon Fracture

- Mechanism = Direct blow to point of Elbow
- Clinical Feature
  - Swelling/tenderness over Olecranon
  - Inability to extend elbow against gravity
- Associated Injury = Ulnar Nerve
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced = Elbow immobilization in 30 degrees flexion
  - Fractures > 2 mm displacement = Emergent Ortho Referral
    - Open reduction with internal fixation



## ■ Condylar Fracture

- Distal Humerus comprised of medial and lateral condyles, each with articular and non-articular surface
- Articular Surfaces
  - Trochlea (medial condyle)
  - Capitellum (lateral condyle)
- Non-articular surface
  - Medial and Lateral Epicondyle
- Condylar fractures involve both the articular surface and the non-articular surface
  - Lateral condyle fractures are most common
- Treatment
  - Nondisplaced or minimally displaced = Immobilization in 90o elbow flexion with forearm supination or pronation, Outpatient ortho referral
  - Displaced Fractures (> 3 mm) = Surgical Fixation



# Other Elbow Fractures

- Articular Surface Fracture
  - Trochlea and Capitellum
  - Mechanism = Typical fracture is associated with posterior elbow dislocation or from fall on outstretched hand
  - Treatment
    - Non-displaced fracture = Splint immobilization
    - Displaced (even minimal) = Emergent orthopedic referral and surgical repair
- Epicondylar Fracture
  - Seen most commonly in children
  - Medial Epicondyle
    - Avulsion fracture of medial condyle often accompanies posterior elbow dislocation
    - Associated ulnar nerve injury
    - Treatment
      - Nondisplaced = Immobilization
      - Displaced (> 3-5 mm or intra-articular) = Orthopedic referral and surgical reduction
  - Lateral Epicondyle
    - Rare, typically the result of direct blow
    - Most are non-displaced and treated with immobilization

# Elbow Dislocations

- Posterior (Most Common)
  - Mechanism of Injury = Fall on extended and abducted arm
  - Clinical Findings = Marked swelling with posterior prominence of Olecranon
  - Imaging = Lateral view of elbow
  - Associated Injuries
    - Fractures (30-60% of cases)
    - Ulnar or Median nerve injury
    - Brachial artery injury – Consider angiography if suspect arterial injury
  - Treatment = Reduction
    - Traction distally at wrist with assistant immobilizing the humerus
    - While maintaining traction, flex the elbow and apply posterior pressure to the humerus
    - Elbow will exhibit “clunk” when reduced
    - Reassess ROM of elbow and neurovascular status
    - Immobilize in long-arm posterior splint in 120 degrees of flexion (i.e. full flexion)
    - Observe for delayed vascular compromise
- Anterior (Uncommon)
  - Mechanism of Injury = Blow to Olecranon with elbow in flexion
  - Clinical Findings = Elbow in full flexion
  - Associated Injuries = Much higher incidence of vascular impingement
  - Treatment
    - With humerus immobilized by second assistant, downward and backward pressure is applied to proximal forearm while in-line traction is applied to the wrist

# Elbow Dislocation

Anterior Elbow Dislocation



[http://boneandspine.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/anterior\\_dislocation\\_elbow.jpg](http://boneandspine.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/anterior_dislocation_elbow.jpg)

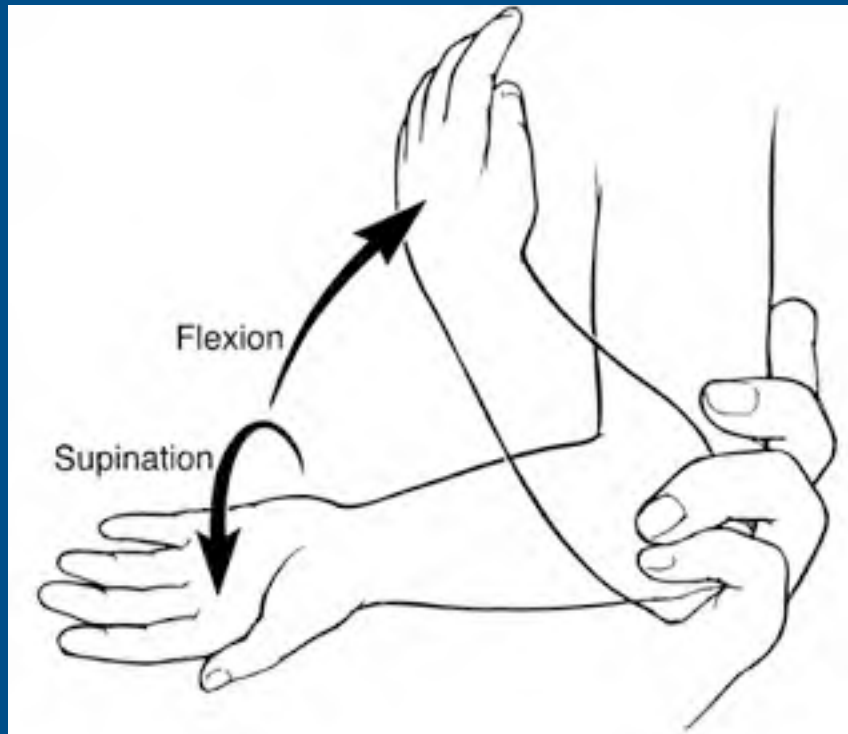


Posterior Elbow Dislocation

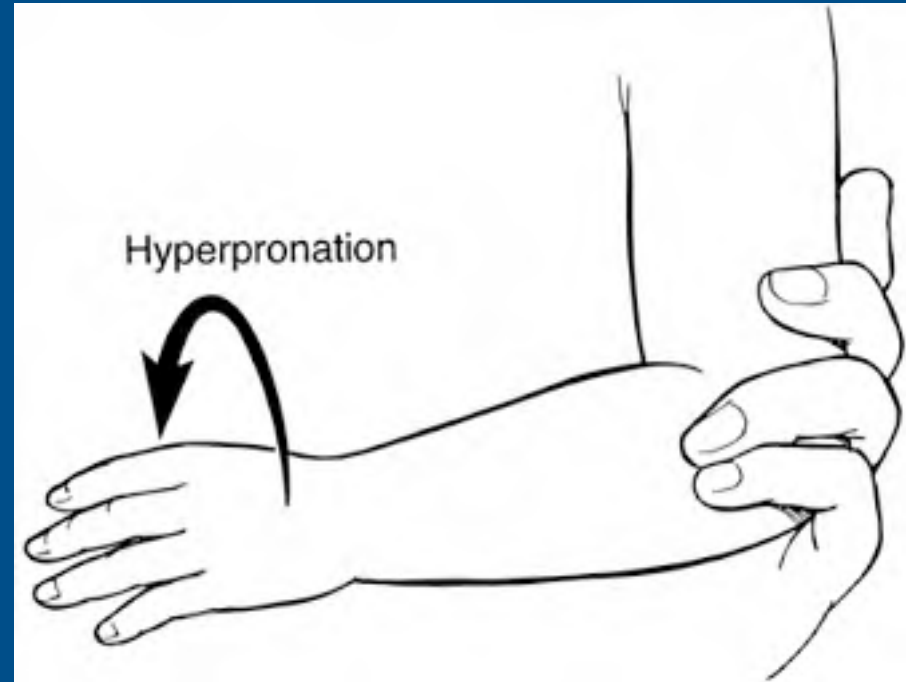
# Radial Head Subluxation

- Nursemaid's elbow = Subluxation of radial head beneath the annular ligament
- Mechanism of injury = Longitudinal traction on hand or forearm with arm in pronation
- Clinical Findings = Child with arm dangling at side and unwilling to use it
- X-rays not necessary
- Treatment = Reduction
  - Thumb over radial head with concurrent supination of forearm and flexion of elbow
  - Extension and pronation (another option for reduction)

# Radial Head Subluxation



<http://daddytypes.com>



<http://daddytypes.com>

# Forearm Injuries

- Radial Head Fracture
- Galeazzi Fracture
- Nightstick Fracture
- Monteggia's Fracture
- Both bone Forearm Fracture

# Radial Head Fracture

- Mechanism of Injury = Fall on outstretched hand
- Clinical Finding = Tenderness and swelling over the radial head
- Imaging
  - May not be seen on initial x-ray
  - Evaluate for anterior or posterior fat pad which suggests diagnosis
- Associated Injuries
  - Essex-Lopresti Lesion = Distal radio lunar dissociation
  - Articular surface of capitellum frequently injured
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced = Sling immobilization, Ortho follow-up
  - Comminuted/Displaced Fractures = Immobilization in posterior long arm splint
    - Early orthopedic referral (2-5 days) for screw fixation or radial head excision, which will be done if:
      - Marked comminution of fracture
      - Angulation of articular surface
      - > 2 mm offset in two part fracture
      - Fracture involving more than 1/3 of articular surface





# Galeazzi Fracture

- Distal Radius Fracture
  - Distal radio-ulnar dislocation
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Direct blow to back of wrist
  - Fall on outstretched hand
- Complication = Ulnar nerve injury
- Treatment = ORIF



PD-INEL

<http://www.learningradiology.com/caseofweek/caseoftheweekpix2/cow157lg.jpg>

# Monteggia's Fracture

- Proximal 1/3 Ulnar Fracture
  - Dislocation of radial head
- Mechanism of Injury = Direct blow to posterior aspect of ulna
  - Fall on outstretched hand
- Imaging = Elbow/Forearm x-rays
  - Radial head dislocation missed in 25% of cases
  - Carefully examine the alignment of radial head
- Associated Injury = Radial Nerve Injury
- Treatment
  - ORIF (Adults)
  - Closed Reduction/Splinting (Children)

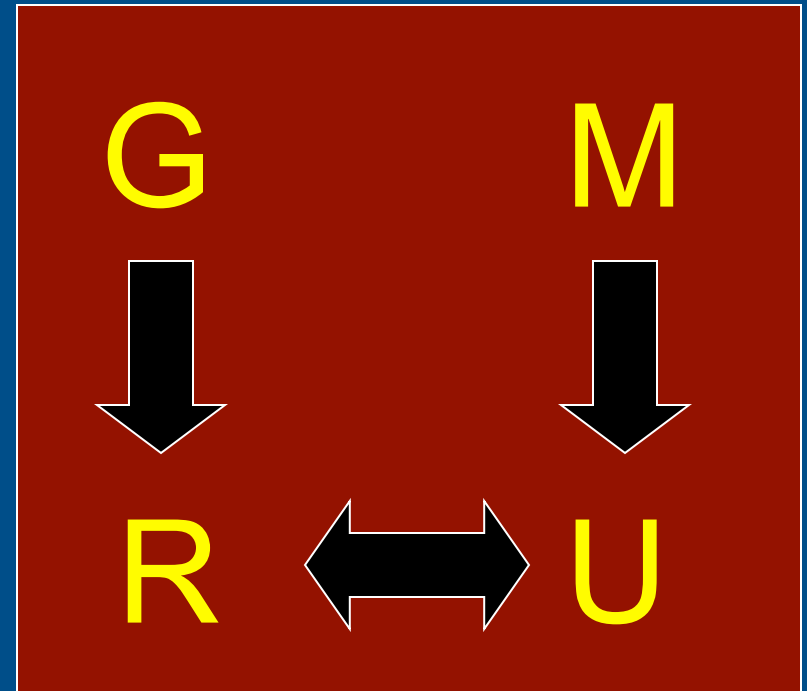


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<http://www.radiology.co.uk/srs-x/cases/074/d.htm>

# Galeazzi vs. Monteggia

Galeazzi  
Radial Fracture  
Ulnar Fracture  
Monteggia



# Nightstick Fracture

- Isolated fracture of ulnar shaft
- Mechanism = Direct blow to ulna with patient raising forearm to protect face
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced = Immobilization in cast
  - Displaced
    - >10 degrees angulation or displacement > 50% of ulna
    - Orthopedic referral - ORIF



 <http://radiographics.rsna.org/content/24/4/1009/F31.small.gif>

# Both Bone Forearm Fracture

- Fracture of both ulnar and radius
  - Usually displaced fracture
- Mechanism of Injury = Direct blow to forearm
- Associated Injury
  - Peripheral Nerve Deficits
  - Development of compartment syndrome
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced (rare) = Immobilization in bivalved cast
  - Displaced – ORIF
    - Closed reduction may be possible in children
- Complications
  - Compartment Syndrome
  - Malunion



# Volkmann's Ischemic Contracture

- Complication of elbow and forearm fractures or casting that is too tight (compartment syndrome)
- Pressure on Brachial artery results in ischemia of muscles of forearm, typically flexor compartment
- Results in forearm pronation, flexion of wrist and digits and paralysis of intrinsic muscles
- Patient complains of pain out of proportion of injury, digit swelling and paresthesias
- Irreversible damage in 6 hours (see image)
- Consider in any patient presenting with pain and numbness in hand after casting has been performed
- Treatment
  - Removal of cast
  - Surgical decompression with fasciotomy



# WRIST AND HAND INJURIES

# Hand and Wrist Injuries

## ■ Wrist Injuries

- Fractures
- Dislocations
- Overuse Syndromes
  - DeQuervain's Tenosynovitis
  - Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
  - Guyon's Canal Syndrome

## ■ Hand Injuries

- Fractures
- Dislocations
- Infections of the Hand/Bites
- High Pressure Injection Injuries
- Tendon Injuries
- Amputated Digits



# Distal Forearm/Wrist Fractures

## ■ Colles' Fracture

- Transverse fracture of distal radius with dorsal displacement of distal fragment
- Mechanism = Fall on outstretched hand
- Most common fracture in adults > 50 years old
- Exam = Classic Dinner Fork Deformity
- Associated Injuries
  - Ulnar styloid fracture
  - Median Nerve Injury
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced Fracture
    - Sugar Tong Splint, Referral to Orthopedic Surgery
  - Displaced Fracture
    - Prompt reduction – Finger traps and manipulation under conscious sedation or with hematoma block
    - Immobilization in Sugar tong splint
    - Referral to Orthopedic Surgery

# Distal Forearm/Wrist Fractures

- Smith Fracture (Reverse Colles)
  - Transverse fracture of distal radius with volar displacement
  - Mechanism = Fall on outstretched arm with forearm in supination
  - Associated Injury = Median Nerve Injury
  - Treatment
    - Reduction with finger traps and manipulation
    - Immobilization in sugar tong or long arm splint
    - Orthopedic referral

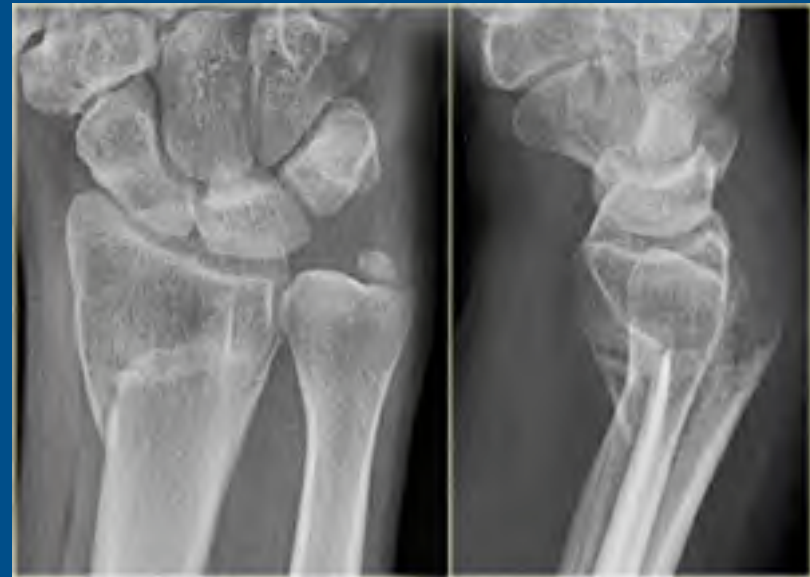
# Distal Forearm Fractures

## ■ Colles' Fracture



[http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb\\_47764b731fc2dTEK-colles2.jpg](http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb_47764b731fc2dTEK-colles2.jpg)

## ■ Smith Fracture



[http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb\\_478115d48934dSmith%27.jpg](http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb_478115d48934dSmith%27.jpg)

# Wrist Fractures

## ■ Carpal Injuries

- Scaphoid Fracture (Most Common)

- Mechanism = fall on outstretched hand
- Imaging – Initial x-rays may fail to demonstrate fracture
  - > 10% of cases
  - Repeat Imaging in 2 weeks will often show fracture
- Clinical findings = tenderness in anatomical snuff box
- Treatment
  - Non-displaced or clinically suspected fracture
    - Thumb spica Splint
  - Displaced Fracture = ORIF
  - Complications
    - Avascular necrosis of proximal fragment
    - Delayed union or malunion

# Wrist Fractures

- Scaphoid Fracture



# Wrist Fractures

## ■ Carpal Fractures

- Triquetrum Dorsal Chip Fracture (2<sup>nd</sup> most common)
  - Mechanism = Fall on outstretched hand
  - Exam = Tenderness on palpation distal to ulnar styloid on dorsal aspect of wrist, painful flexion
  - Best visualized on lateral view of wrist
  - Treatment = Volar splint
- Lunate Fracture
  - Mechanism = Fall on outstretched hand
  - Exam = Pain over mid-dorsum of wrist increased with axial loading of 3<sup>rd</sup> digit
  - Plain x-rays are often normal
  - Treatment = Immobilization in thumb spica splint, orthopedic referral
  - Complications
    - Kienbock's disease = Avascular necrosis of proximal segment

# Carpal Fractures

## ■ Triquetrum Fracture



<http://www.ucgc.org/segments/wrist-injury/images/xray.jpg>

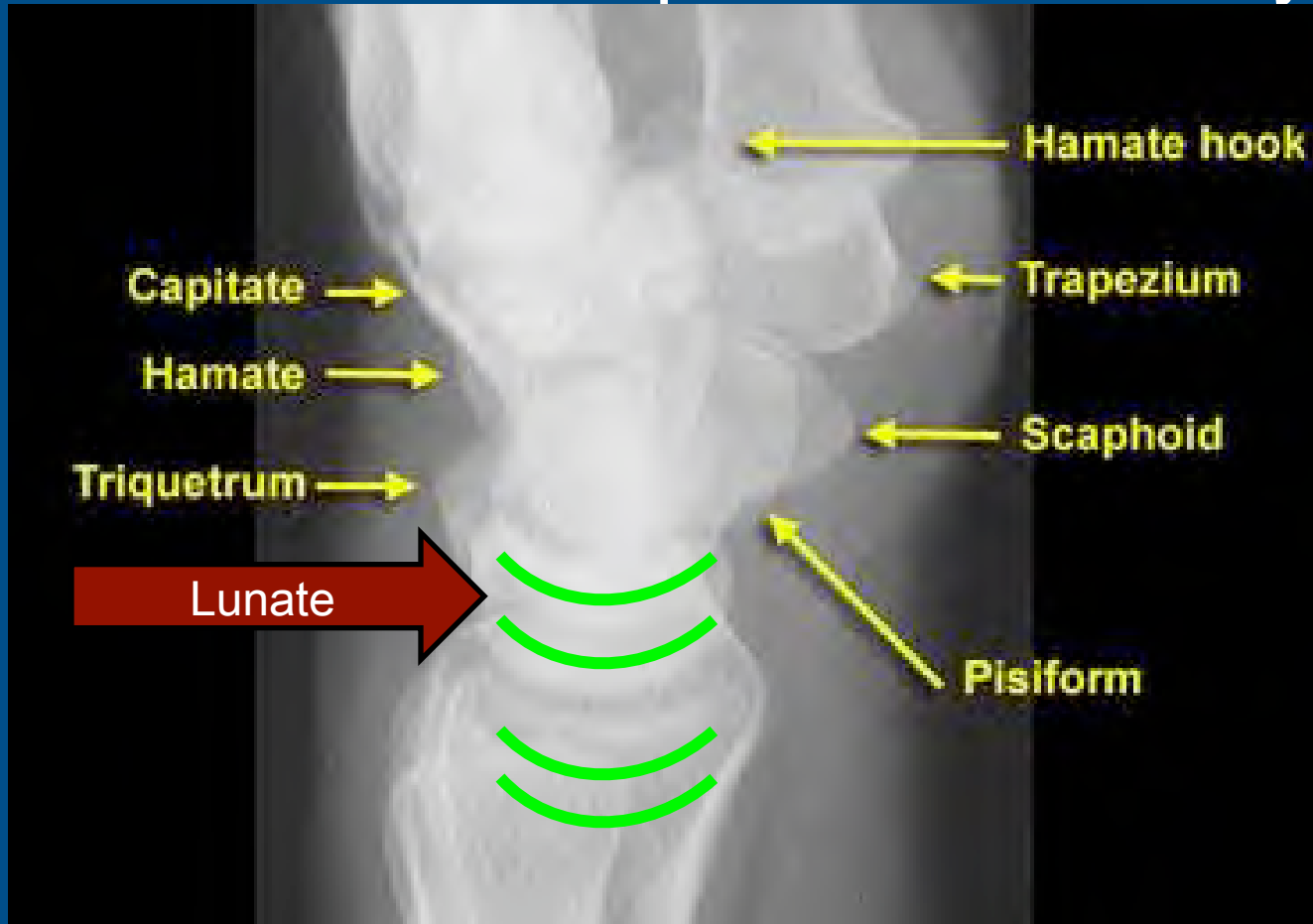
# Carpal Dislocations

- Mechanism of Injury = Violent Hyperextension
- Treatment = Orthopedic Consultation
- Lunate Dislocation
  - Pain, swelling and loss of flexion of wrist, hand and arm when held in anatomic position
  - X-ray
    - AP View = “Piece of Pie” sign
    - Lateral View = “Spilled teacup sign”
- Perilunate Dislocation
  - May be associated with Scaphoid fracture



# Lunate vs. Peri-lunate Dislocation

- 4 C's Need to line up on normal x-ray



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<http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/en/42a29ec06b9e8>

# Lunate vs. Peri-lunate Dislocation

## ■ Lunate Dislocation

- Capitate is centered over the radius and the lunate is tilted out
- Tea cup deformity



[http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb\\_4308223ad4bb7lunate-peri-lunate.jpg](http://www.radiologyassistant.nl/images/thmb_4308223ad4bb7lunate-peri-lunate.jpg)

## ■ Peri-lunate Dislocation

- Lunate is centered over the radius and capitate is tilted out



# Carpal Dislocations

## ■ Scapholunate Dislocation

- Most common ligamentous injury of hand and is commonly missed
- Pain with wrist hyperextension, snapping sensation with radial/ulnar deviation
- Radiographic signs
  - Scaphoid is foreshortened and has a dense ring shaped image around its distal edge (signet ring sign)
  - Widening of space between the lunate/scaphoid
    - > 3 mm, Terry Thomas sign
- Treatment = Thumb spica, Hand Referral

# Scapholunate Dislocation

## ■ Terry Thomas Sign



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<http://www.ucgc.org/segments/wrist-injury/images/xray.jpg>



PD-INEL

<http://faculty.washington.edu/alexbert/MEDEX/Winter/ch262fg4.jpg>

# Overuse Syndromes

- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
  - Entrapment of Median nerve
  - Tinel's sign = Tapping over volar wrist produces paresthesias
  - Phalen's sign = Hyperflexion of wrist = Paresthesias
  - Risk Factors = Pregnancy, Hypothyroid, DM, RA
  - Treatment = Splinting, Rest, Surgical Decompression
- DeQuervain's Tenosynovitis
  - Overuse syndrome with inflammation of extensor tendons of thumb
  - Characterized by pain along radial aspect of wrist that is exacerbated with use of thumb
  - Finkelstein's test = Ulnar deviation of fist hand produces pain
  - Treatment = NSAIDS, Splint, Rest
- Guyon's Canal Syndrome
  - Ulnar nerve entrapment syndrome
  - Numbness and tingling in ring and small finger
  - Causes = repetitive trauma (handle bar neuropathy), cyst
  - Treatment = Splint, Surgical Decompression

# Hand Fractures

- Distal Phalanx (15-30% of hand fractures)
  - Mechanism is typically crush or shearing forces
  - Classified as Tuft, Shaft or Intra-articular fractures
  - Fractures at base may be associated with flexor or tendon injuries
  - Treatment is typically protective splinting (hairpin splint or finger splint)
- Proximal and Middle Phalanx
  - No tendon attachments
  - Mechanism
    - Direct blow = transverse or comminuted fracture
    - Twisting Mechanism = Spiral fracture
  - Fractures are typically stable
  - Treatment
    - Stable and Nondisplaced impacted or transverse fx = Buddy taping
    - Stable fractures with no angulation or rotation = Radial or Ulnar gutter splint
    - Unstable fractures = Internal fixation with Kirschner wires

# Hand Fractures

## ■ Metacarpal Fractures

### • Head

- Mechanism = Direct blow or projectile injury with comminuted fracture
- If laceration is present over MCP = Suspect Fight bite
- Any displacement gives poor outcome
- Treatment = Ice, Elevation, Immobilization in soft bulky dressing, Referral to hand surgery

### • Neck (Most common)

- Mechanism = Direct impaction force
- Boxer's fracture = 5<sup>th</sup> MC neck fracture
- Fractures are typically unstable with volar angulation and/or rotation
- Acceptable angulation depends on digit
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MC < 15 degrees angulation acceptable
  - 4<sup>th</sup> < 20 degrees angulation acceptable
  - 5<sup>th</sup> < 40 degrees angulation acceptable
- Rotation Exam = Look for malalignment of plane of fingernails in flexed position
- Treatment
  - Anatomic reduction if unacceptable angulation or rotational deformity
  - Splint with wrist in 20 degree extension and MP flexed at 90 degrees

# Hand Fractures

## ■ Metacarpal Fractures (Cont' d)

### • Shaft

- Mechanism = Direct Blow or indirect blow with application of a rotational force
- Rotational deformity is more common than neck fractures
- Rotational deformity is unacceptable for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MC
- If anatomic reduction is necessary, operative fixation is typically required
- Treatment
  - Nondisplaced fractures = gutter splint
  - Displaced or angulated fractures = Elevation, Ice, Immobilization and Consultation for reduction and follow-up

### • Base

- Mechanism = Direct blow or force applied to hand
- Stable injuries
- Often associated with carpal bone fractures
- Treatment = Bulky hand dressing or volar splint



# Metacarpal Fractures

- Metacarpal fractures
- Boxer's Fracture



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[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Metacarpal\\_fractures.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Metacarpal_fractures.jpg)



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# Hand Fractures

## ■ Bennett's Fracture

- Intra-articular fracture of thumb base with subluxation or dislocation of MC joint
- Axial loading injury with hand closed
- Treatment
  - Ice, Elevation
  - Immobilization in thumb spica splint
  - Emergent Orthopedic Consultation
    - Anatomic reduction necessary (ORIF)

## ■ Rolando's Fracture

- Comminuted T or Y shaped fracture involving the joint surface
- Axial loading injury with hand closed
- Treatment
  - Ice, Elevation
  - Immobilization in thumb spica splint
  - Emergent Orthopedic Consultation
    - Requires ORIF
  - Worse prognosis

# Intra-articular Thumb Fractures

- Bennett's Fracture



- Rolando's Fracture



# Finger Dislocation

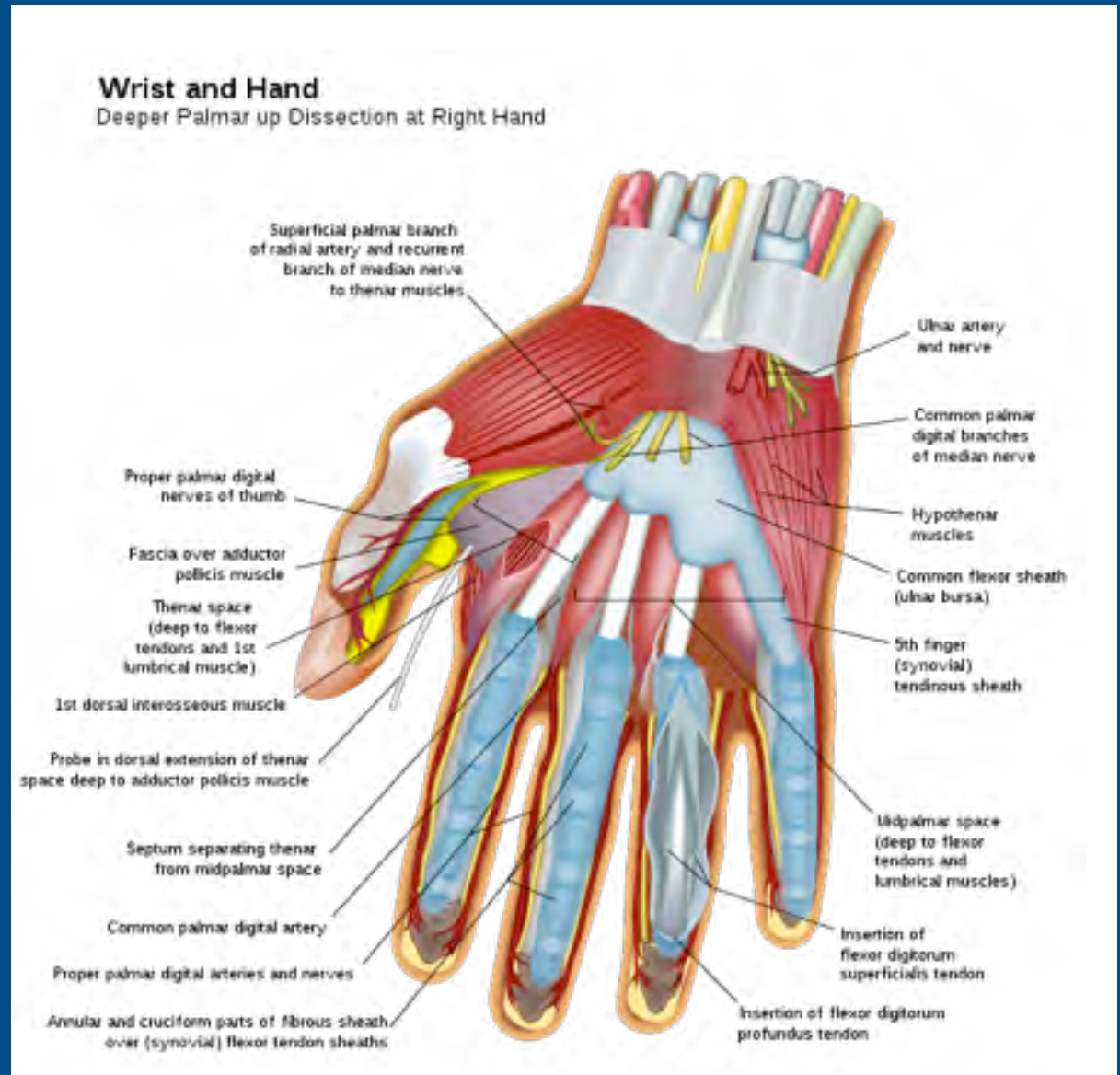
- DIP = Uncommon
- PIP = Common
  - Dorsal dislocation very common, usually due to axial load and hyperextension
  - Reduction = Distraction and slight hyperextension with repositioning
  - Splint at 30 degrees flexion for 3 weeks
  - Can't reduce = Volar plate entrapment
- MCP
  - Less common than PIP
  - Mechanism is typically due to hyperextension forces that rupture the volar plate and cause dorsal dislocation
  - Simple dislocations can typically be managed with closed reduction and splinting in flexion, referral to hand surgeon
  - Complex dislocations characterized by volar plate entrapment in joint space and makes closed reduction in these cases nearly impossible
    - Requires open reduction and repair

# Gamekeeper's Thumb

- Ulnar Collateral Ligament tear
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Acute and forceful radial deviation of the thumb (e.g. skiing accidents)
- Examination
  - Tenderness along ulnar aspect of the thumb with weak thumb grasp and pinch
  - Must assess joint stability
    - Apply lateral stress to the MCP joint of injured thumb and compare to normal thumb
    - Presence of > 10-20 degrees of laxity suggests a complete tear
- Imaging = X-rays to r/o fractures
- Treatment
  - Incomplete tear = Thumb spica splint and ortho follow-up
  - Complete tear = Surgical Repair (best if done within 1 week)
  - Hand surgery or ortho referral is recommended for all patients with weakness of pincer function and point tenderness over volar aspect of thumb MCP

# Hand Infections

- Paronychia
- Felon
- Herpetic Whitlow
- Human Bites
- Pyogenic Flexor Tenosynovitis



# Paronychia/Felon

## ■ Paronychia

- Infection of lateral nail fold
- Staph/Step usual causative agents
- Treatment
  - Incision and Drainage
  - Warm soaks
  - Antibiotics if surrounding cellulitis
- Complications = Felon

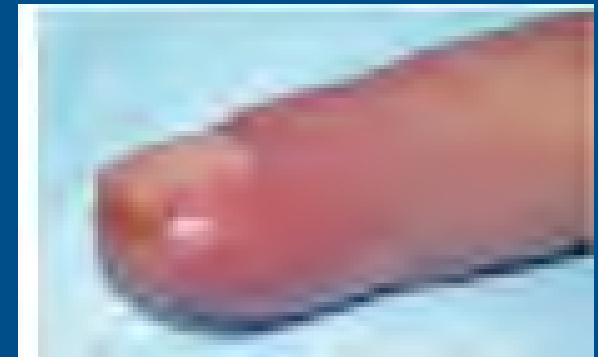
## ■ Felon

- Infection of pulp space of fingertip
- Staph aureus is typical causative agent
- Treatment – I+D at point of maximal tenderness
  - Packing for 48-72 hours
  - Warm soaks
  - Antibiotics
- Complications
  - Flexor tenosynovitis, osteomyelitis



PD-SELF

[Wikipedia](#)



PD-INEL

[http://www.womenfitness.net/r\\_img1/felon.jpg](http://www.womenfitness.net/r_img1/felon.jpg)



# Herpetic Whitlow

- Viral infection of distal finger
- Caused by HSV I or II
- Clinical Findings –  
Localized burning, itching  
and pain preceded  
development of classic  
clear herpetic vesicles
- Diagnosis – Clinical
- Treatment
  - Splinting, Elevation, Pain  
control
  - Oral Antiviral Agent
  - Do not surgically drain



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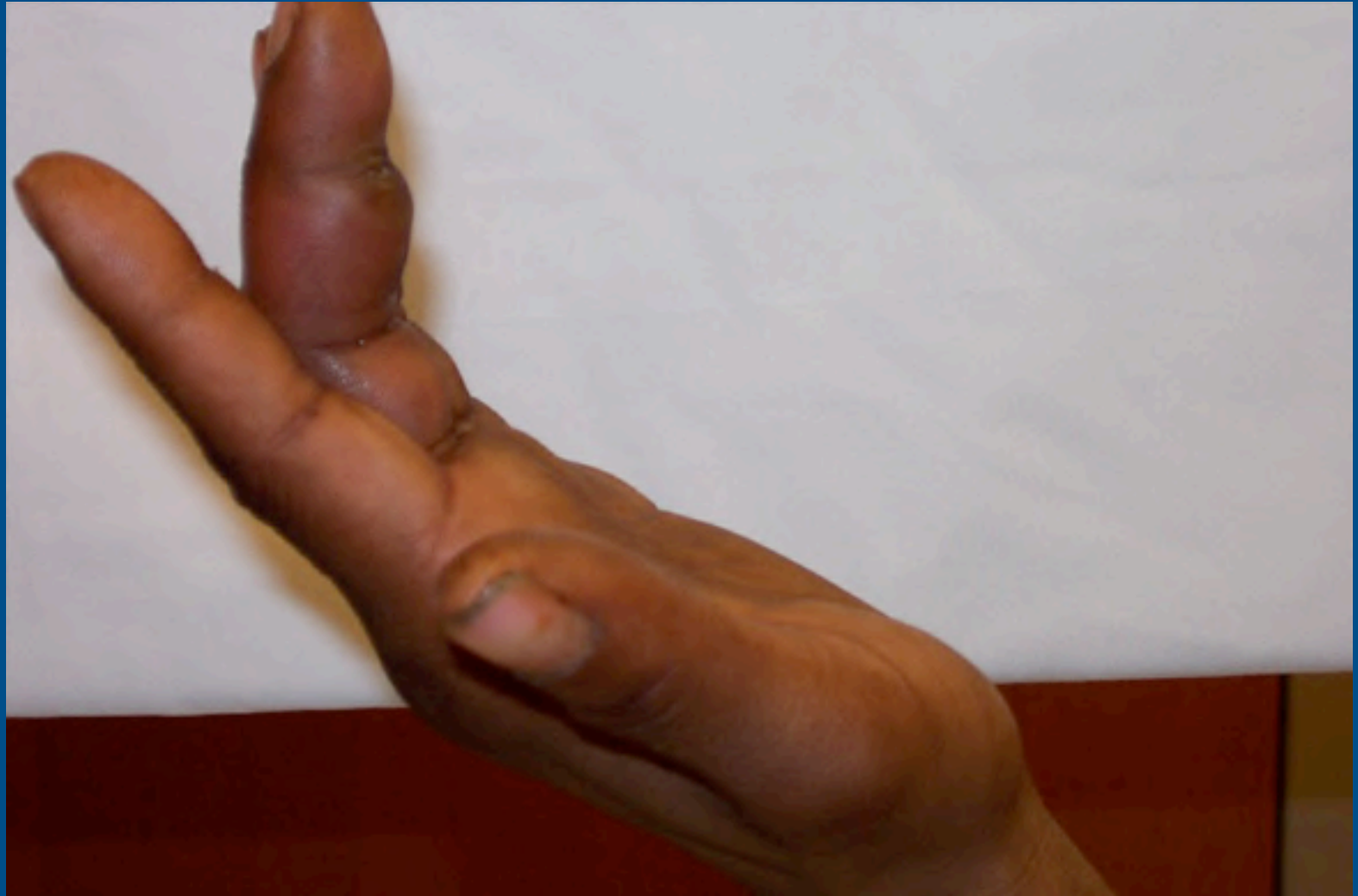
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~thabif/weeklyclinic110501/pictures/12herpeticwhitlow.jpg>



# Flexor Tenosynovitis

- An infection of flexor tendon sheath that typically results from a puncture wound on volar surface
- Causative agents typically Staph Aureus or Strep
- Diagnosis = 4 Cardinal Kanavel Signs
  - Finger held in slight flexion
  - Symmetric swelling of finger (termed diffuse fusiform swelling)
  - Tenderness along proximal flexor sheath
  - Pain with passive extension of finger
- Treatment
  - Hospitalization and Emergent Orthopedic Consult
  - Surgical Drainage
  - IV antibiotics
  - Elevation and Splinting
  - Tetanus update

# Flexor Tenosynovitis



<http://pennacademicassociate.com/img/Slideshow/5.JPG>

Ghana Emergency Medicine Collaborative  
Advanced Emergency Trauma Course

# Collar Button Abscess

- Deep web space infection of the hand that involves both palmar and dorsal side of hand
- Purulent fluid spreads between metacarpal bones and erupts dorsally creating a hand abscess
- Volar spread is limited by presence of palmar aponeurosis
- Exam noted with swelling and tenderness, more prominent on palmar surface
- Treatment involves volar and dorsal incision and drainage by orthopedics in the operating room
  - IV antibiotics

# Human Bite (Fight Bite)

- Injury results from punching another person in the mouth
  - High potential for severe infection
- Infected wounds have potential for spread to deep palmar space infections, functional loss and need for amputation
- Any wound over MCP joint is considered a fight bite until proven otherwise – patients will often lie about cause of injury
- Causative agents
  - Anaerobes (especially *Eikenella corrodens*)
  - Staph aureus
  - Neisseria species
- Treatment
  - DO NOT SUTURE – Secondary intention healing
  - Consult Orthopedic Surgeon
  - X-rays to r/o fracture
  - Irrigate wound
  - Splint and elevate the hand
  - Hospitalize the patient and treat with IV Antibiotics (Unasyn)

# High Pressure Injection Injuries

- 1-3 mm wound caused by a high pressure injection device (e.g. grease, hydraulic fluid or paint gun)
- Wound is deceptively small but fluid typically travels down tendon sheath and damages flexor tenderness and is also high risk for hand compartment syndrome
- Prognosis = Poor – 70% require some form of amputation
- Treatment
  - X-ray (especially if substance is opaque and for subcutaneous air)
  - Splint, Elevate Extremity
  - Broad Spectrum Antibiotics
  - Update Tetanus
  - Immediate Orthopedic Consult for Surgical Debridement

# Hand Injuries

- Fight Bite
- High pressure Injection Injuries



# Tendon Injuries

## ■ General Principles

- Note normal posture of hand
- Examine wound with hand and fingers in the position at the time of injury
  - Aid in determining the location of tendon injury
- Evaluate the tendon and wound while exhibiting full range of motion of the finger/hand

## ■ Tendon Injuries

- Flexor Tendon Injuries
- Extensor Tendon Injuries

# Flexion Tendon Injuries

- Injury typically associated with laceration over flexor surface
- Examination
  - Flexor Digitorum Profundus Tendon
    - Immobilize PIP and MCP joints and assess patient's ability to flex tip of the finger
    - Inability to flex indicative of a profundus tear
  - Flexor Digitorum Superficialis Tendon
    - Hold un-injured fingers in extension and ask patient to flex injured finger (blocks the action of the profundus tendon)
  - Tendon needs to be tested against resistance. 90% tear will still have function but will demonstrate weakness with resistance testing
- Treatment
  - Repair of full thickness injury in OR
  - Partial tear (treatment is controversial) – Many orthopedic surgeons will treat with protective splinting



# Jersey Finger

- Closed traumatic disruption of flexor tendon apparatus
- Jersey finger results from flexor digitorum profundus tendon avulsion when one football player grabs the jersey of another and his finger is caught
- Affected patient will be unable to bend finger down to palm of hand and finger will be excessively straight in position of rest
- Treatment = Surgical Repair of tendon apparatus



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[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_QqqSg0x3QzY/R7bxt5LI8XI/AAAAAAAAAEg/RmSP8FtnTz0/s400/jersey.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_QqqSg0x3QzY/R7bxt5LI8XI/AAAAAAAAAEg/RmSP8FtnTz0/s400/jersey.jpg)

# Extensor Tendon Injuries

## ■ Mallet Finger

- Extensor tendon laceration or disruption of DIP joint
- Patient is unable to extend DIP joint
- Mechanism of Injury = Blow to tip of extended finger producing sudden forceful flexion
- Treatment
  - If no fracture – Splint DIP joint in extension to slight hyperextension for 6-8 weeks
  - If fracture = Splint DIP joint and ortho referral for possible surgical pinning with Kirschner wire fixation
- Complication = Untreated Mallet finger results in “swan neck deformity”
  - Hyperextension of PIP joint in addition to mallet flexion deformity of DIP joint

# Extensor Tendon Injuries

## ■ Boutonniere Deformity

- Rupture of central slip of the extensor tendon hood at the PIP
  - May be associated with avulsion fracture
- Characterized by flexion of the PIP joint and hyperextension of DIP joint
  - Why? Lateral bands of extensor hood split and become PIP flexors
- Mechanism is typically a direct blow (forced flexion) or laceration of the PIP joint region
- Deformity not always present immediately and often develops over time (1-2 weeks)
- Treatment = Splint the PIP joint in extension
  - Refer to Orthopedic Surgeon for possible operative repair

# Extensor Tendon Injuries

- Mallet Finger



- Boutonniere Deformity



# Amputated Digits

## ■ Preservation of Amputated Digit

- Irrigate amputated part with normal saline to remove gross contamination
- Wrap in sterile gauze moistened with saline
- Place in sterile water tight container
- Store the container in ice water

## ■ Criteria for Re-implantation

- Young, healthy patient with normal vital signs
- Sharply incised wound with minimal associated tissue destruction
- Amputated thumb
- Multiple digit amputation
- Hand or forearm amputation
- Amputation in child

## ■ Contraindications to reimplantation

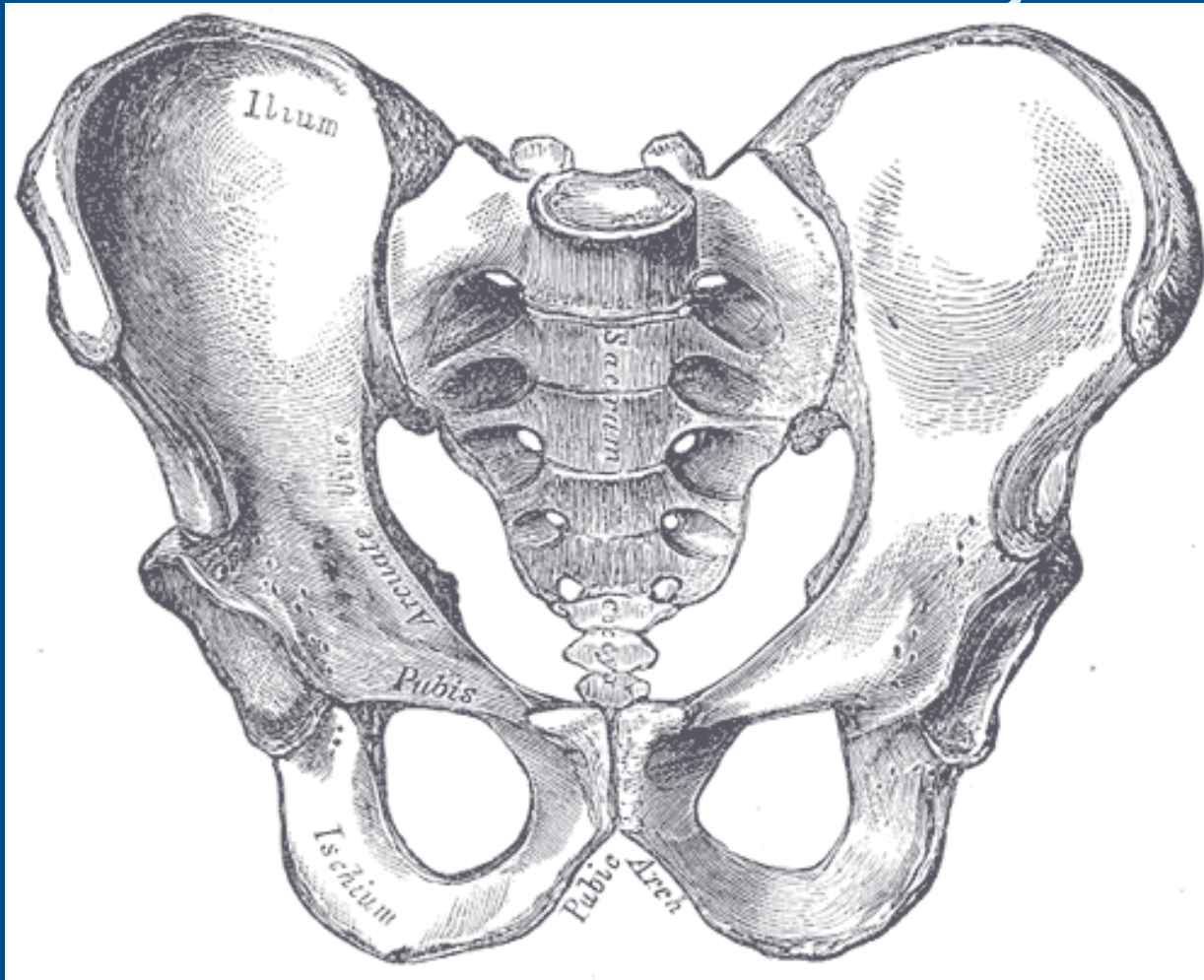
- Absolute Contraindications
  - Unstable patient with severe life threatening injuries
  - Severe crush injury
- Relative
  - Severely damaged part
  - Severely contaminated part
  - Single digit amputation
    - other than thumb
  - Avulsion Injury
  - Serious underlying medical illness that would impair wound healing
  - Prolonged warm ischemia (> 12 hrs)
  - Prior injury to affected part
  - Emotionally unstable patient

# LOWER EXTREMITY INJURIES

# Pelvic Fractures

- Mechanism of Injury
  - Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - Falls
  - Crush Injuries
  - Take-down injuries (Car vs. Pedestrian)
- Classification (Young Classification)
  - AP Compression
    - Type 1 – Disruption of pubic symphysis ( $< 2.5$  cm), No posterior pelvis injury
    - Type 2 – Disruption of pubic symphysis ( $> 2.5$  cm), Ligamentous injury
    - Type 3 – Complete disruption of pubic symphysis and posterior ligamentous complex with hemipelvic displacement
  - Lateral Compression
    - Type 1 – Posterior Compression of SI joint without ligamentous disruption, oblique ramus fracture
    - Type 2 – Rupture of posterior sacroiliac ligament, pivotal internal rotation of hemipelvis with crush injury to sacrum and oblique ramus fracture
    - Type 3 – Type 2 + AP compression injury to contralateral hemipelvis

# Pelvic Anatomy



Gray's Anatomy ([Wikipedia](#))



# Pelvic Fractures

- Imaging = Plain film, CT imaging
  - CT superior in evaluating acetabulum, posterior arch and SI joint
- Specific pelvic fractures
  - Pubic Rami (Most common pelvic fracture)
    - Straddle injury = fracture of all 4 pubic rami
  - Iliac Crest
    - Duverney fracture = Pelvic wing fracture
    - Ilium fracture = Pelvic ring disruption
  - Malgaigne Fracture = Multiple fractured Pelvis
    - Pubic rami bilaterally and ilium or sacrum

# Pelvic Fracture

- AP Compression Type Injury



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/394515-overview>

- Lateral Compression Type Injury



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/394515-overview>



# Pelvic Fractures

## ■ Associated Injuries

- Hemorrhage
  - 1<sup>st</sup> cause of death from pelvic fx
  - Up to 6L of blood in retroperitoneum
  - 50% of patients require transfusion
- Urethral and Bladder Injuries
  - Most commonly associated injuries
- Vaginal Laceration or rupture
- Nerve Injury
- Ruptured Diaphragm
- Rectal Injuries
- Thoracic Aortic Rupture
  - 8 times more likely in patients with pelvic fractures

## ■ Treatment

- Evaluation for secondary injuries
- Avoid excessive movement
- Antishock pelvic clamp in patients with evidence of fracture and instability
- Type 1 – Conservative treatment
- Type 2 – Single Ring Fractures
  - Conservative treatment
- Type 3 – Double Ring Fractures
  - Unstable, Immobilize, External or Internal Fixation, Orthopedic Consultation, Embolization of hemorrhage
- Type 4 – Acetabulum fracture = Displaced fractures require surgical repair

## ■ Complications

- Sepsis
- Thromboembolic complications
- Malunion or Delayed Union
- Chronic Pain

# Pelvic Binder



<http://www.aaos.org/news/aaosnow/jul09/clinical8.asp>



<http://www.aaos.org/news/aaosnow/jul09/clinical8.asp>

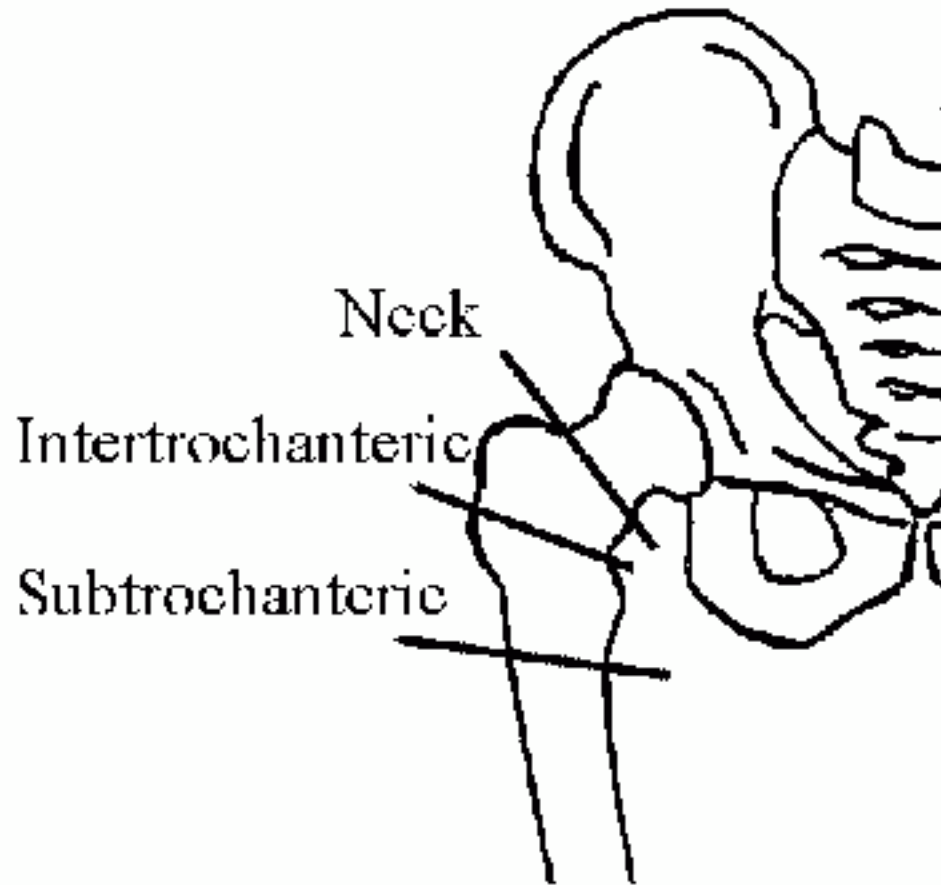
# Hip Fractures

- Classification
  - Intracapsular
    - Femoral Head, Subcapital or Neck Fracture
  - Extracapsular
    - Trochanteric, Intertrochanteric or Subtrochanteric
- Clinical Presentation
  - External rotation, flexion, shortened leg
  - Pain with attempted ROM – especially internal/external rotation
- Imaging
  - Plain films will diagnose most hip fractures
  - CT or MRI for patients with occult fracture
    - Patients with negative plain films who cannot ambulate should be examined with CT or MRI imaging
- Treatment
  - Orthopedic Consultation
  - ORIF
- Complications = Bleeding, Aseptic Necrosis

# Hip Fracture Types



<http://arthritis-symptom.com/images/Hip-fracture.gif>



# Hip Fractures



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[http://images.quickblogcast.com/80618-70584/hip\\_fracture2.jpg](http://images.quickblogcast.com/80618-70584/hip_fracture2.jpg)



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<http://www.health-res.com/EX/07-28-07/hipp301.jpg>

# Hip Dislocations

- Anterior Hip Dislocation (10%)
  - Mechanism of Injury = Extreme abduction pushes femoral head out through tear in anterior capsule from auto accident or fall
  - Clinical Features = Slight abduction, external rotation
  - Associated vascular injuries with diminished femoral or distal pulses indicates need for immediate reduction
- Posterior Hip Dislocation (80-90%)
  - Mechanism of Injury = Majority are due to auto-accidents with direct force applied to flexed knee, pushing femoral head through the posterior capsule
  - Clinical Features = Shortened, Adducted and Internally Rotated
  - Associated Physical Findings
    - Acetabular or Femoral Fractures
    - Sciatic Nerve Injury
    - Knee Injury
- Treatment
  - Early reduction to avoid Avascular necrosis of the femoral head
  - Closed Reduction should be attempted in ED, operative repair if unsuccessful
- Complications
  - Anterior dislocation = Femoral Artery, vein, nerve injury
  - Posterior dislocation = Sciatic Nerve injury



# Hip Dislocation

- Anterior Hip Dislocation



- Posterior Hip Dislocation



# Femur Fracture

- Typically, male patients suffering fall or MVA
- Clinical Presentation – Severe pain, unable to bear weight
- Treatment
  - Hair Traction Splint
  - Orthopedic Consultation
  - ORIF
- Complications
  - Hemorrhage
  - Neurovascular Injury
  - Fat Emboli



# Knee Injuries

## ■ Mechanism

- Valgus Stress (Abduction) = MCL, ACL, Medial Meniscus
- Varus Stress (Adduction) = LCL, Lateral Meniscus
- Hyperextension Stress = ACL, PCL
- Anterior/Posterior Stress on the tibia = ACL, PCL
- Rotational Stress = ACL, MCL

## ■ Evaluation

- Ligamentous stress testing

## ■ Imaging = X-ray to r/o fracture

## ■ Treatment

- Knee Immobilizer
- Orthopedic Referral
- MRI as outpatient if no improvement on re-evaluation



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<http://www.breg.com/files/xl/KNEE-IMMOBILIZER.gif>

# Knee Injury

- ACL Testing
  - Lachman's Test
  - Anterior Drawer Test
- PCL
  - Posterior Drawer Test
- Medial and Lateral Collateral Tests
  - Knee valgus stress test (MCL)
  - Knee varus stress test (LCL)
- Meniscal Tests
  - McMurrey's Test
  - Apley Compression Test

# Football Triad Injury

- Football triad results from lateral aspect of the knee
- Results in:
  - Medial Collateral Ligament Tear
  - Medial Meniscus
  - ACL Tear
- Clinical Presentation: Swelling or pain around knee with moderate to severe pain
- Treatment
  - Knee Immobilization
  - Surgical Repair

# Ottawa Knee Rules

- Patient needs an x-ray of knee if:
  - Age > 55 y/o
  - Isolated tenderness of patella
  - Tenderness at head of fibula
  - Inability to flex 90 degrees or inability to bear weight in the ED (at least 4 steps)
  - Rules are valid in children or adults

# Knee Injuries

## ■ Baker's Cyst

- Inflammation of the semi-membranous or medial gastrocnemius bursa produced by protrusion of synovial membrane through the posterior aspect of the knee's capsule
- Patients present with knee swelling and local discomfort
- Exam with tense posterior painful knee with painful fluid filled sac
- Rupture of the cyst causes pain and swelling (may mimic DVT)
- Treatment = Correction of underlying joint pathology

## ■ Osgood-Schlatter's Disease

- Repetitive microscopic injury that produces inflammation of apophysis of the tibial tubercle and leads to partial avulsion and separation of the tibial tubercle
- Commonly seen in adolescent males who are active in sports
- Treatment = Ice, NSAIDs, Decreased sports

# Knee Dislocation

- Mechanism of Injury = Violent trauma from MVA or vehicle pedestrian accidents
- Classification
  - Classified by direction of tibial displacement compared with femur
  - 5 types: Anterior, Posterior, Medial, Lateral, Rotary
  - Most common = Anterior and Posterior (50-60%)
- Diagnosis
  - Complete disruption of all major ligaments
  - Popliteal artery injury is common (21-32%), especially in anterior/posterior dislocation
  - Peroneal nerve injury is also common (25-35%)



<http://sfghed.ucsf.edu/Education/ClinicImages/Knee%20disloc..jpg>



# Knee Dislocation

## ■ Diagnostic Caveats

- Knee with complete disruption may demonstrate less swelling and pain than a less severely injured knee
- Knee may reduce spontaneously – Any patient who presents with grossly unstable knee following trauma should be assumed to have a spontaneously reduced dislocation

## ■ Clinical Management

- Immediate reduction – Longitudinal Traction
- Pulses should be checked before and after reduction
- Following reduction, knee should be immobilized in posterior splint in 15 degrees of flexion
- Arteriogram should be performed in all patients who have had a knee dislocation
- Immediate orthopedic and vascular surgical consultation
- Immediate surgical intervention for Popliteal artery injuries, open dislocations and irreducible dislocations

# Patellar Fracture

## ■ Classification

- Transverse fractures most common (50-80%)

## ■ Mechanism of Injury

- Direct blow (e.g. dashboard injury)
- Forceful contraction of quadriceps muscle

## ■ Clinical Presentation

- Tenderness and swelling over the patella
- Limited painful knee extension

## ■ Imaging

- AP, Lateral X-rays
- Sunrise or skyline view

## ■ Treatment

- Nondisplaced fracture with intact extensor mechanism = Immobilization in full extension, Partial weight bearing and orthopedic referral
- Displaced or loss of extensor function = Orthopedic referral for surgical intervention



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[http://boneandspine.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/fracture\\_patella.jpg](http://boneandspine.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/fracture_patella.jpg)

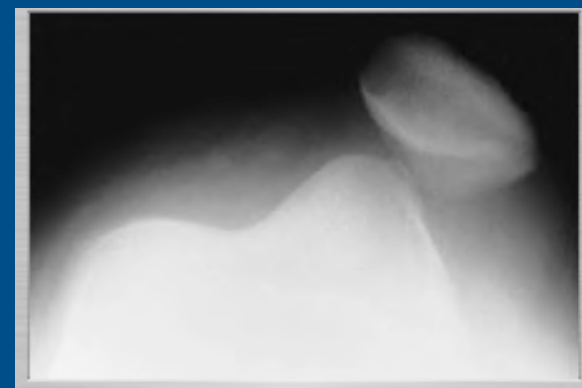
# Patellar Dislocation

- Lateral subluxation or dislocation is most common
- Mechanism of Injury
  - Sudden flexion and external rotation of tibia on the femur with contraction of the quadriceps
  - Direct blow to the patella with knee in flexion or extension
- Clinical Features
  - Typically occurs in adolescent females with chronic patellofemoral anatomic abnormalities
- Clinical Management
  - AP and Lateral x-rays of the knee
  - Reduction = Flexion of hip and gentle medial pressure over the lateral aspect of the patella while extending the knee
  - Immobilization in full extension
  - Crutches
  - Orthopedic Referral
  - Frequently re-occur



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[http://www.conquestchronicles.com/special/the\\_dislocated\\_patella](http://www.conquestchronicles.com/special/the_dislocated_patella)



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[http://www.conquestchronicles.com/special/the\\_dislocated\\_patella](http://www.conquestchronicles.com/special/the_dislocated_patella)

# Quadriceps Tendon Rupture

- More common in old debilitated patients or patients on steroids or fluoroquinolones
- Mechanism
  - Typically results from fall onto knee
- Clinical Presentations
  - Forced knee flexion with inability to extend knee
  - Patient may be able to stand but will not be able to walk
- Treatment
  - Early Orthopedic Consultation
  - Complete Rupture = Early Surgical Repair
  - Incomplete Rupture = Immobilization in full extension

# Tibial Plateau Fracture

- Mechanism = Strong valgus stress with axial loading
  - Fall from height
  - Auto/Pedestrian (bumper vs. knee)
- Most condylar fractures involve the lateral plateau
- Imaging = X-ray
  - CT may be needed for diagnosis
- Complications -Vascular complications
  - Anterior tibial artery
  - Popliteal artery

<http://z.about.com/d/orthopedics/1/0/1/2/tibialplateau2.jpg>



# Lower Leg Injuries

## ■ Tibia Fractures

- Mechanism
  - Torsional injury = Spiral fracture
  - Bending force = Transverse or oblique fracture
  - Direct force from crush injury
- Treatment
  - Avoid Infection – Antibiotics for open fractures, emergent ortho consult if open for subsequent OR irrigation and debridement
  - Most closed fractures that are minimally displaced can be treated with orthopedic reduction and immobilization
  - Most patients require admission for pain control and further fracture care and monitoring for compartment syndrome

## ■ Fibula Fractures

- Isolated fibula fractures typically result from a direct blow
- Nondisplaced fractures can be treated with immobilization with either elastic wrap (distal fibula), knee immobilizer (proximal fibula) or splinting if significant pain

# Lower Leg Injuries

- Tibial Fracture



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[www.wheelessonline.com/  
image2/ptib36.jpg](http://www.wheelessonline.com/image2/ptib36.jpg)

- Fibular Fracture

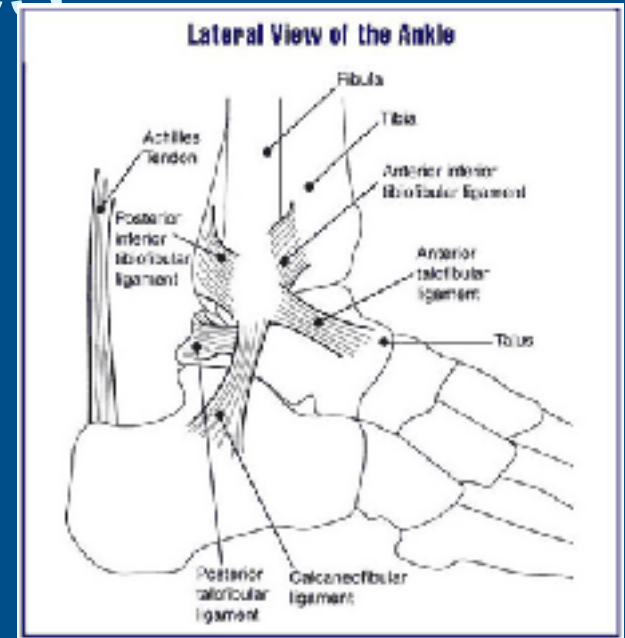


[Flickr](#)

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# Ankle Injuries

- Anatomy
- Ankle Sprains
- Ankle Fractures
- Ankle Dislocation
- Tendon Injuries
  - Achilles Tendon Rupture



[Wikipedia](#) [PD-GOV](#)



[PD-INEL](#)

<http://www.squidoo.com/anklefootxray>



# Ankle Sprain

## ■ Types

- Lateral Collateral Ligament Sprain (85-90%)
  - Inversion and internal rotation injury
- Medial Collateral Ligament Sprain
  - Eversion and external rotation injury

## ■ Classification

- First Degree
  - Mild localized tenderness
- Second Degree
  - Moderate swelling and tenderness, moderate functional loss
- Third Degree
  - Marked tenderness, swelling, inability to bear weight, significant functional loss

# Ottawa Ankle Rules

- Patients need ankle x-rays if:
  - Inability to bear weight
    - Either after injury or in ED
  - Bony tenderness along posterior edge of distal 6 cm of lateral or medial malleolus
  - Point tender over navicular bone

# Ankle Sprain

## ■ Associated Injuries

- Medial Collateral Ligament Strain often associated with fracture of fibular head (Maisonneuve fracture)

## ■ Stress Test for Ankle Stability

- Anterior drawer test
  - Indicative of rupture of anterior talofibular ligament
- Inversion stress (talar) test
  - Only do if anterior drawer test is positive
  - Positive test indicates rupture of both the anterior talofibular and calcaneofibular ligaments
- External rotation test
  - Pain at the syndesmosis or sensation of lateral talar movement

## ■ Treatment

- Ice, Elevation, Compression
- Immobilization, Crutches
- Early orthopedic referral for type 2 or type 3 injuries
- Type 3 injuries will sometimes need surgical repair

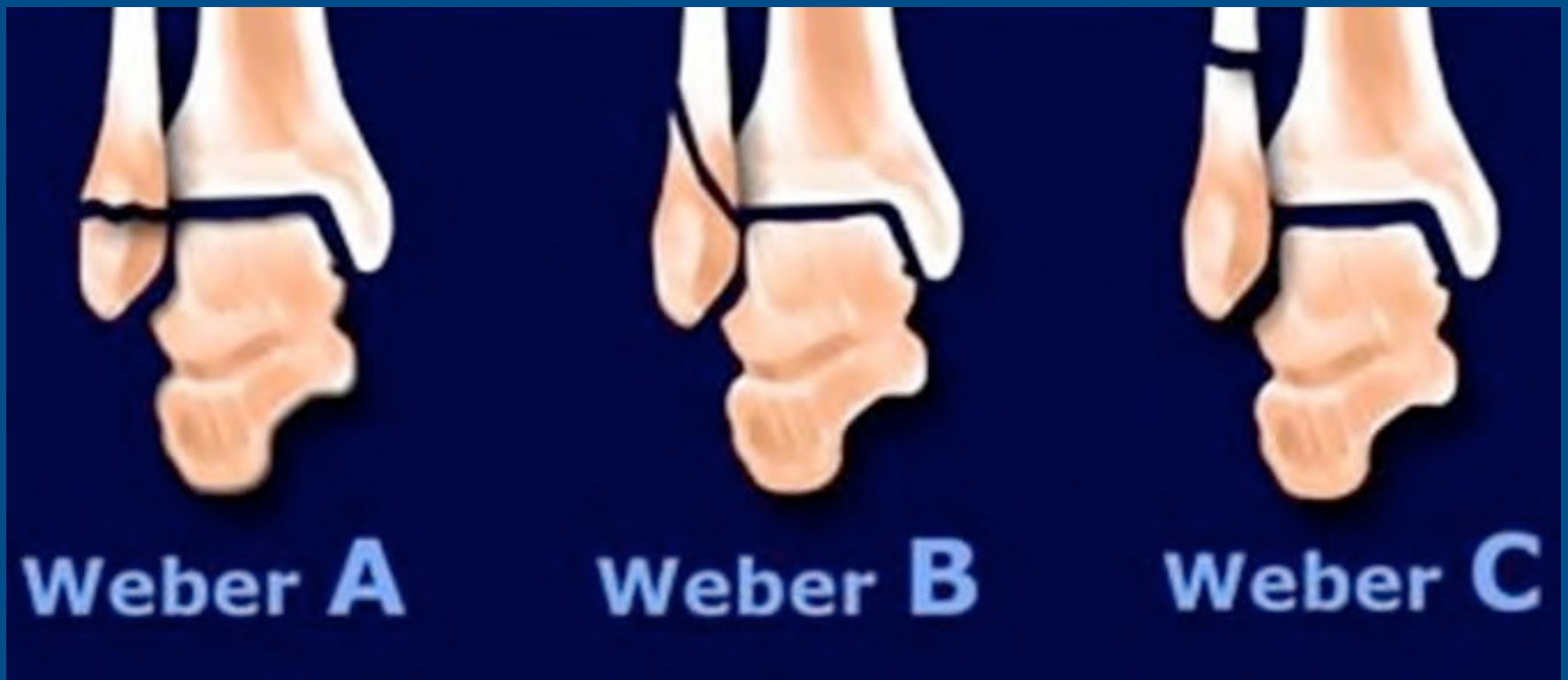
# Ankle Fracture

## ■ Classification

- Lauge-Hansen Classification (two word)
  - Two word classification scheme
    - First word = Position of the foot
    - Second Word = Motion of the foot
  - Supination-Adduction
  - Supination-External Rotation
  - Pronation-Abduction
  - Pronation-Eversion
  - Pronation-Dorsiflexion
- Danis-Weber Classification
  - Based on the level of fracture of the fibula
  - Type A - Fracture of fibula below the syndesmosis
  - Type B – Fibular fracture at the level of the syndesmosis
  - Type C – Fibular fracture above the level of the syndesmosis
- Radiographic Classification
  - Unimalleolar, Bimalleolar, Trimalleolar

# Weber Classification

- Higher level = Greater disruption of syndesmosis – Greater instability



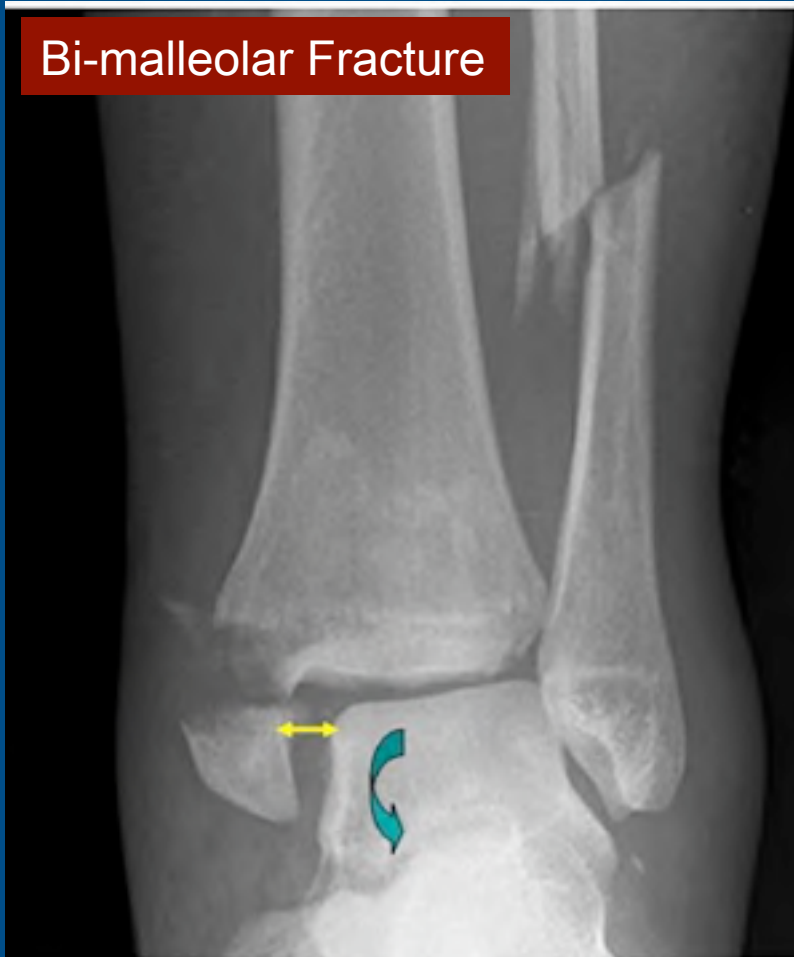
# Ankle Joint Stability

- Ankle joint is a ring which is maintained in stability by bony structures and ligaments
- Disruption of one part of the ring allows for continued stability of the joint
- Disruption of two parts of the ring results in instability of the joint



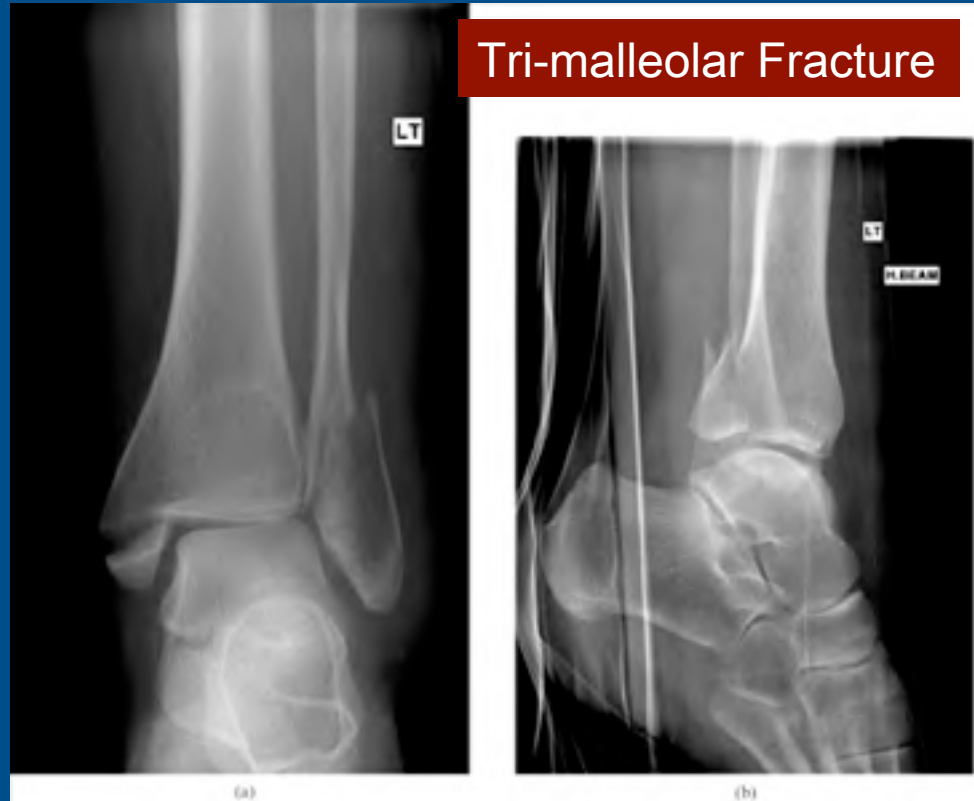
# Ankle Fractures

Bi-malleolar Fracture



<http://www.squidoo.com/anklefootxray>

Tri-malleolar Fracture



<http://imaging.birjournals.org/cgi/content-nw/full/15/4/324/F3>

# Treatment

- Avulsion fractures with no displacement, smaller than 3 mm in diameter with no evidence of medial ligamentous injury may be treated similarly to sprain
- All other ankle fractures require immobilization by either cast or surgical reduction with subsequent casting
- Non-displaced fractures with normal anatomic relationship of ankle
  - Talus anatomically aligned
  - Joint line has to be parallel to the ground
  - Articular surface must be smooth
- Most fractures with exception of Unimalleolar will require ORIF
- Orthopedic consultation for non-displaced ankle fractures is based on local preference
- Displaced fractures require anatomic alignment/reduction and orthopedic reduction



# Ankle Dislocation

- Dislocation in one of four planes
  - Anterior, Posterior, Lateral, Superior (upward displacement of talus)
- Pure ankle dislocation uncommon
  - Typically associated with malleolus fractures
- Treatment
  - Immediate neurovascular assessment
  - Reduction immediately if evidence of neurovascular compromise or skin tenting
  - Reduction with in-line traction
  - Reassess neurovascular status after reduction
- High incidence of complications
  - Neurovascular Compromise
  - Conversion of closed to open
  - Avascular necrosis



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<http://www.sports-injury-info.com/images/shauns-fractured-fibula-compound-ankle-dislocation-playing-baseball-warning-graphic-fracture-image-21135429.jpg>

# Achilles Tendon Injury

## ■ Achilles Tendon Rupture

- Sudden excruciating pain at back of ankle that then lessens after injury
- Commonly, an injury of sedentary middle aged males (weekend warriors)
- Mechanism of injury
  - Forceful dorsiflexion of the foot with ankle in relaxed state
  - Direct trauma to taut tendon
- Examination
  - Swelling of distal calf
  - Palpable defect in tendon proximal to calcaneal insertion
  - Weak plantar flexion
  - Thompson's squeeze test
- Diagnosis
  - Clinical with Thompson test
  - Ultrasound or MRI can confirm
- Treatment
  - Initial Management = Ice, Elevation, Analgesia, Immobilization in posterior splint in plantar flexion
  - Orthopedic follow-up within 48-72 hours
  - Definitive care is controversial (casting vs. surgical repair)



[http://www.sportsinjuryclinic.net/cybertherapist/back/backlowerleg/rehabcalf/thompson\\_test.jpg](http://www.sportsinjuryclinic.net/cybertherapist/back/backlowerleg/rehabcalf/thompson_test.jpg)

# Foot Injuries

## ■ Foot Anatomy

- Hind part
  - Calcaneus, Talus
- Midpart
  - Navicular, Cuboid, Cuneiforms
- Forepart
  - Metatarsals, Phalanges



<http://www.e-radiography.net/technique/foot/footlat.htm>

## ■ Joints

- Hind part – Midpart
  - Chopart Joint
- Midpart – Forepart
  - Lis Franc Joint

<http://www.e-radiography.net/technique/foot/footdp.htm>



# Calcaneal Fractures

- Calcaneal Fracture
  - Most frequently fractures tarsal bone
  - Mechanism = Compression/Axial Injury
    - “Jumper’s Fracture”
  - Exam = Swelling, tenderness, Ecchymosis of hind foot with inability to bear weight on fracture
  - Rule of 10’s
    - 10% are bilateral
    - 10% are associated with compression fractures
  - Bohler’s Angle – Formed by intersection of two lines on the lateral film
    - Superior margin of posterior tuberosity through the superior tip of the posterior facet
    - Superior tip of the anterior process through superior tip of the posterior facet
    - Angle normally = 20-40 degrees
    - Angle < 20 degrees = depressed fracture
  - Treatment
    - Early orthopedic consultation
    - Intra-articular or displaced calcaneal fracture = Controversial (immediate reduction vs. non-operative management)
    - Non-displaced or extra-articular fracture = Ice, elevation, immobilization in posterior splint, crutches, orthopedic follow-up

# Calcaneal Fracture

- Calcaneal Fracture



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[http://cz7asm.wz.cz/fyz/obrazky/pv/Calcaneus\\_Fracture.jpg](http://cz7asm.wz.cz/fyz/obrazky/pv/Calcaneus_Fracture.jpg)

- Bohler's Angle



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<http://eorif.com/AnkleFoot/ImagesAnkleFoot/Bohlers.jpg>

# Lisfranc Fracture Dislocation

- Mechanism of Injury
  - Axial load = Fall on the plantar flexed foot
  - Compressive forces = Crush Injury
  - Rotational forces = Twisting of body around foot
- Exam = Midfoot swelling and pain, Decreased ROM and inability to bear weight
- Imaging
  - Evaluate x-ray for normal alignment along the medial aspect of the middle cuneiform with the medial aspect of the base of the 2<sup>nd</sup> metatarsal
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Metatarsal functions as primary stabilizing force and fracture at base of 2<sup>nd</sup> MT is indicative of disrupted Lisfranc joint (Fleck's sign)
- Treatment
  - Closed reduction under anesthesia or ORIF
  - Orthopedic consultation in ED is required

# Lisfranc Fracture-Dislocation

- Normal Lisfranc Joint
- Fracture



<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/podiatry/Radiology/newradiopics/3dmovies/NormalFootAP.jpg>



[Wikipedia](#)

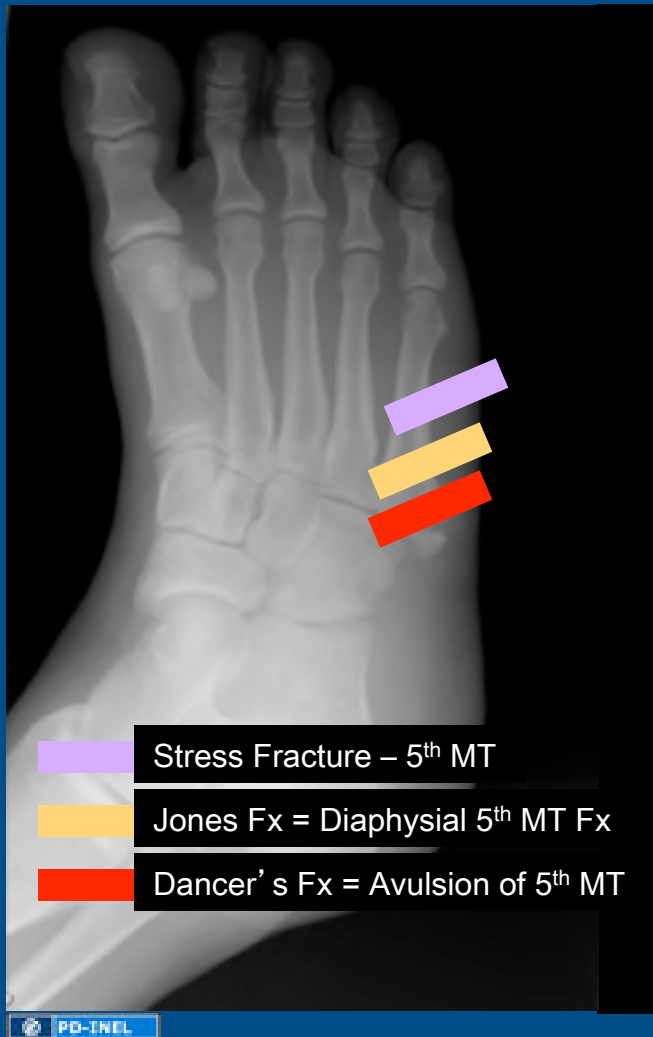


# Jones Fracture

- Diaphyseal Fracture of 5<sup>th</sup> Metatarsal
- Mechanism of Injury = Forceful load applied to the ball of the foot – Running or Jumping Sports
- Note: Dancer's Fracture
  - Avulsion fracture at 5<sup>th</sup> MT where peroneus brevis attaches
  - Inversion Injury
  - Cast shoe only (Cam Walker Boot)
- Clinical findings
  - Pain over 5<sup>th</sup> MT
  - Delayed healing compared with avulsion fractures
- Treatment
  - Emergent Orthopedic Consultation
  - Non-displaced fracture = Immobilization in non-weight bearing short leg fracture
  - Displaced fractures = Surgical management



# Jones Fracture



# Questions?



# References

- Tintinelli, Judith. Emergency Medicine: A comprehensive study guide. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill. 2004.
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- Simon, Robert. Emergency Orthopedics. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill. New York. 2007.