

Walid S. Maani M.D., FRCSEd.
Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery
Jordan University Medical School and Hospital

A SIMPLE CLASSIFICATION OF SKULL FRACTURES

WHAT IS A SKULL FRACTURE?

IT IS JUST A DISCONTUITY
OF A SKULL BONE

WHAT DOES IT RESULT FROM?

USUALLY A BLOW TO THE HEAD BY:

- ❖ Either striking the head with a hard object, or
- ❖ Striking the head against a hard object or surface, or
- ❖ Stabbing or hitting the skull with a sharp instrument, or
- ❖ Penetrating the skull with a bullet or shrapnel

WHAT DETERMINES WHAT SORT OF FRACTURE WILL RESULT?

- 1) The **type of Instrument** used
- 2) The **magnitude of the force** applied
- 3) The **size of the skull surface** to which the force is applied

SO, WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF FRACTURES?

THERE ARE **ONLY TWO TYPES**:

- A) **Linear** fractures
- B) **Depressed** fractures

LINEAR FRACTURES

They are named according to their location:

- 1) **Hair-line** if they occur in the vault of the skull
- 2) **Basilar** if they occur in the skull base
- 3) **Diastatic** if they run along a skull suture

DEPRESSED FRACTURES

They are divided according to the number of the pieces of bone fractured:

- ① 1) One piece: **Hinged door fracture**
- ② 2) Multiple pieces: **Comminuted fracture**

THEN?

Any fracture could be either:

- 1) **Simple (closed)** if it does not communicate with the atmosphere through any route
- 2) **Compound (open)** if it communicated with the atmosphere through any route

IS THAT ALL?

WELL, SOME PEOPLE ADD A RARE TYPE OF FRACTURES; AND THEY CALL A **POND** FRACTURE.

It is really not a fracture but a **DENT** in the skull, usually occurring in babies with soft skulls and requiring no management unless complicated.