

* Upper limb fractures heal faster than lower limb fractures (better vascularity)

* Adult upper limb fractures \Rightarrow 6 wks

* Peds, upper limb \Rightarrow 3 wks.

* Most Common Mech. \Rightarrow FOOSH

+ Bending force \Rightarrow oblique

+ Twisting force \Rightarrow spiral \rightarrow lowest healing time

+ Direct force \Rightarrow Transverse

- spiral < oblique < Transverse

High energy trauma \rightarrow extensive soft tissue injury \rightarrow slower healing
lower surface area available for healing

* Intra-articular \Rightarrow Anatomical reduction + Absolute Fixation

\rightarrow Complications: joint stiffness and osteoarthritis.

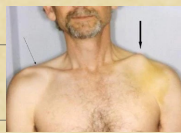
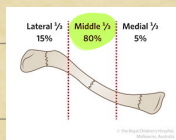
* Extra-articular \Rightarrow Functional reduction + Relative Fixation

* Why do Fractures Displace?

- 1) Energy of Trauma
- 2) Muscle act around the segment got contracted and push the bone toward its side
- 3) Position of gravity

* Clavicular fracture

middle third > lateral third > medial third.



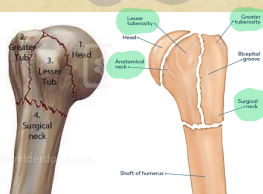
Displacement in middle third fractures: proximal piece upward \rightarrow SCM muscle.

Distal piece downward \rightarrow Shoulder wt/gravity.

middle third \rightarrow Conservative Mx (sling or figure of 8 brace)

lateral third \rightarrow usually unstable + associated with ligamentous injury \Rightarrow Surgical Mx

* Proximal Humerus Fracture



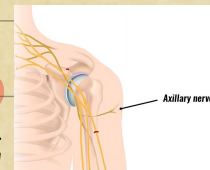
Surgical neck fracture \Rightarrow most frequent / fragility fracture / Risk of axillary nerve injury

Anatomical neck fracture \Rightarrow Risk of humeral head ARN

greater tuberosity fracture \Rightarrow Avulsion fracture / pulled by tendon of supraspinatus and infraspinatus

lesser tuberosity fracture \Rightarrow Avulsion fracture subscapularis tendon

Mx: Conservative (arm sling) or operative (reduction and fixation or replacement) \rightarrow according to fracture combination and bone quality.



**** fragility fractures: 4

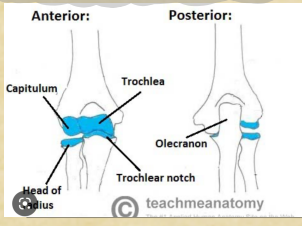
- hip fractures
- Surgical neck fractures of the humerus
- vertebral compression fractures
- distal radius fractures \rightarrow Colles' fracture

* Humeral shaft fracture

may result in radial nerve injury \rightarrow motor: wrist extension \Rightarrow if injured wrist drop
sensory: first web space

pain, swelling, deformity \rightarrow proximal part will be pulled by the deltoid \Rightarrow various angulation and shortening
Mx: Conservative or operative \rightarrow Healing: Secondary (callus formation) or primary (compression plate)

* Olecranon fracture → intra-articular fracture ⇒ Anatomical reduction + Absolute fixation (3 methods) → example : TBW



Mech : usually avulsion fracture caused by forceful triceps contraction

* Forearm fractures :

supination and pronation / radius moves over the ulna.

* ulna and radius work as a functional unit

Fracture in one is usually associated with fracture or dislocation in the other
managed as intra-articular fractures (Anatomic reduction and absolute stability) except in children (High remodeling capacity)

A. Monteggia Fracture Dislocation

- 1. Fracture of the proximal half of the ulna.
 - 2. Dislocation of the proximal radius.
 - 3. Possible injury to the radial nerve as it turns around the radial neck.
- If present this would result in finger drop at the MCP joints but not wrist drop as the nerve supply to the extensor carpi radialis longus already originated at a point proximal to the injury site.



Radial nerve supplies the muscle before reaching it.
Any injury to the radial nerve from the elbow and distal will result in wrist drop only finger drop.

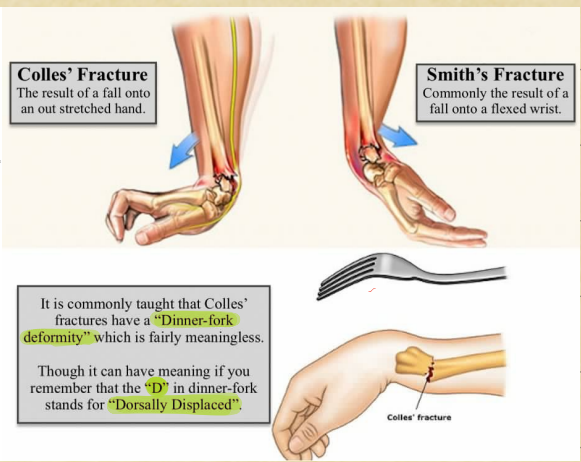
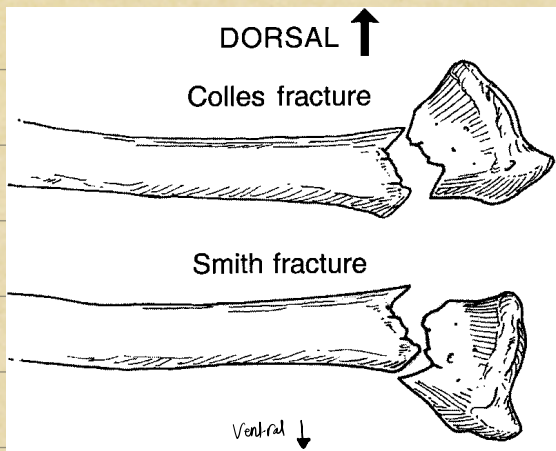
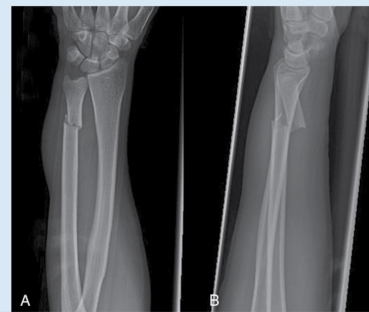
B. Galeazzi Fracture Dislocation

- 1. Fracture of the distal half of the radius.
 - 2. Dislocation of the distal ulna.
 - 3. Possible injury to the ulnar nerve.
- If present, this would result in weakness of finger abduction/adduction, and positive Froment's sign.
- ① weak interossei → Weakness in the MCP joints also seen with ulnar claw → caused by weakness in the medial 2 lumbricals



C. Isolated Ulna Fracture

- Also called nightstick injury.
 - Results from a direct trauma to the ulna (you can see the transverse fracture pattern).
 - The radius is intact.
 - Has a risk of non-union, so surgical fixation is considered if conservative management fails.
- used to be induced by police officers when hitting criminals by their sticks



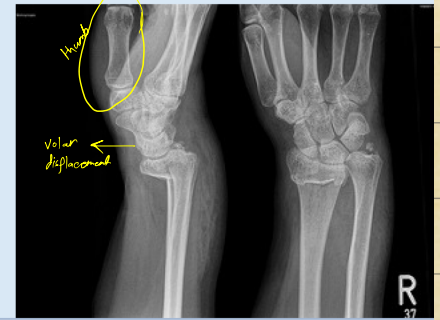
Colles' Fracture

- A **distal radius** extra-articular fracture. Due to hyperextension
- Occurs in the elderly after a simple trauma (**fragility** fracture).
- Dorsally displaced (see the lateral view on the x-ray).
- Presents with **wrist swelling** called **dinner fork deformity**.
- Treatment usually **closed reduction** and **casting** for 6 weeks.



Smith's Fracture

- Also called **reverse Colles'** as it has the same features but with **volar** angulation.
- Caused by falling down with the wrist in flexion (in Colles' the wrist is in extension).
- Treatment is **closed reduction** and **casting** for 6 weeks.



Barton's Fracture

Colles or smiths with intra-articular involvement = Barton's

- ✓ Intra-articular fracture.
- ✓ Best seen on the **lateral** view.
- Resembles a triangle (**articular surface, fracture, cortex**).
- ✓ Treatment is **anatomical reduction** and **fixation**.
- ✓ Can be **volar** or **dorsal**.



Radial Styloid fracture

- Also called **chauffeur fracture**.
- ✓ Caused by **sudden forceful radial** deviation of the wrist.
- ✓ Intra-articular fracture.
- ✓ Treatment is **anatomical reduction** and **fixation**.

