

Fracture Nomenclature

FRACTURE -- Bone – broken. A break of any size is called a fracture. If the broken bone punctures the skin, it is called an open fracture (compound fracture). If the skin is not broken, it is called a closed fracture.

AVULSION FRACTURE -- the detachment of a bone fragment that results from the pulling away of a ligament, tendon, or joint capsule from its point of attachment on a bone -- called also sprain fracture

COLLES' FRACTURE -- a fracture of the lower end of the radius with backward displacement of the lower fragment and radial deviation of the hand at the wrist that produces a characteristic deformity

COMPOUND FRACTURE -- bone fracture resulting in an open wound where bone fragments usually protrude

COMPRESSION FRACTURE -- fracture (as of a vertebra) caused by compression of one bone against another

DEPRESSED FRACTURE -- fracture especially of the skull where fragment is depressed below the normal surface

GREENSTICK FRACTURE -- a bone fracture in a young individual in which the bone is partly broken and partly bent

HAIRLINE FRACTURE - a fracture that appears as a narrow crack along the surface of a bone; without separation of the fragments, the line of break being hairlike, as seen sometimes in the skull.

MONTEGGIA FRACTURE - a fracture in the proximal part of the ulna with dislocation of the head of the radius

OCCULT FRACTURE – a condition with clinical signs of fracture but no radiographic evidence.

SIMPLE FRACTURE -- a bone fracture that does not form an open wound in the skin

SMITH FRACTURE -- a fracture of the lower portion of the radius with forward displacement of the lower fragment

SPRAIN FRACTURE – avulsion fracture

STRESS FRACTURE -- If more pressure is put on a bone than it can stand, it will split or break. A stress fracture is a hairline crack in the bone that develops because of repeated or prolonged forces against the bone.

SOURCES: www.acr.org; www.radiologyinfo.org; www.nlm.nih.gov; Stedman's Medical Dictionary 27th edition.

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