

## Frequently used terminology in the fracture clinic

**Abduction fracture** – a fracture in which the distal part is displaced away from the midline.

**Adduction fracture** – a fracture in which the distal part is displaced towards the midline.

**Avulsion fracture** -- a bone fracture that is caused by pulling away of a tendon, muscle, ligament, or joint capsule from the bone while taking with it a fragment of the bone.

**Barton's fracture** – a fracture/dislocation of the radius at the wrist.

**Bennett's fracture** – a fracture/dislocation of the base of the first metacarpal bone that involves the carpometacarpal joint.

**Boxers fracture** – a fracture through the neck of a metacarpal bone. It is usually seen on the first or fifth metacarpal and is marked by anterior displacement.

**Colles fracture** – fracture in which the lower end of the radius is displaced backwards and upward to produce a dinner fork deformity. Avulsion of the ulnar styloid process usually takes place as well. This fracture is also called **dinner fork** or **silver fork fracture**.

**Cotton fracture** – trimalleolar fracture.

**Dupuytren fracture** – a fracture of the lower fibula complicated by a dislocation of the ankle joint.

**Folding fracture** – a torus fracture.

**Greenstick fracture** -- an incomplete fracture, usually seen in children, in which only the convex side of the cortex is broken with bending of the bone. Also known as the **hickory stick fracture** or **bent fracture**.

**Gutter fracture** – a fracture of the skull characterised by a groove or channel caused by the passage of a high-speed missile.

**Hairline fracture** – a small fracture of bone without displacement. Also called **micro fracture**.

**Henderson fracture** – trimalleolar ankle fracture.

**Inflammatory fracture** – a pathologic fracture of the bone that occurs through a lesion caused by osteitis or osteomyelitis.

**Jones fracture** – avulsion fracture of the 5<sup>th</sup> metacarpal.

**Linear fracture** – a fracture extending down along the length of the bone. Also called **fissure fracture** or **cortical fracture**.

**Longitudinal fracture** – a fracture in the long axis of a long bone.

**Loose fracture** – a fracture in which the bone ends are freely mobile and not in contact.

**Mallet fracture** – the avulsion of a dorsal fragment of the epiphysis of the terminal phalanx of the finger.

**Midnight fracture** – oblique fracture of the phalanx of the fifth toe.

**Nightstick fracture** – a midshaft ulnar fracture caused by a direct blow to the forearm or by falling onto something sharp, like the corner of a step.

**Oblique fracture** – a fracture of the long bone that runs obliquely to the long axis.

**Potts's fracture** – a fracture, usually oblique, of the lateral malleolus of the fibula, with an avulsion transverse fracture of the tibial medial malleolus. The hind foot is outwardly displaced at the mortice of the ankle joint.

## Salter Harris Classification – Growth plate injuries.

I - separation of growth plate and epiphysis

II – a flake of metaphysis

III - portion of growth plate and epiphysis

IV - portion of metaphysis, growth plate and epiphysis

V – crushing of the growth plate

**Skellern's fracture** – in children, a complete fracture of the lower end of the radius along with a greenstick fracture of the ulna.

**Smith's fracture** – a fracture of the lower end of the radius in which the radial fragment is displaced anteriorly. It is usually caused by a direct blow, to the dorsal aspect of the radius. Also called a **reverse Colles fracture**.

**Spiral fracture** – a fracture of a long bone that is spiral or helical in outline and is due to torsional force. Also called a torsion fracture.

**Sprinters fracture** – the avulsion of the anterior or inferior iliac spine of the ilium due to excessive muscle pull.

**Subcapital fracture** – a fracture at the joint of the head and neck of the femur.

**Subtrochanteric fracture** – a transverse fracture at the junction of the femoral shaft and lesser trochanter.

**Supracondylar fracture** – a fracture above the line of the condyles in either the humerus or the femur.

**Tibial plateau fracture** – a fracture through one or both tibial plateaus, usually with downward or oblique displacement.

**Tongue fracture** – horizontal fracture of the posterior – superior surface of the calcaneus.

## Weber fracture – classification

A – fibula fracture below the inferior tibiofibular joint

B – fibula fracture at the inferior tibiofibular joint

C – fibula fracture above the inferior tibiofibular joint.

Also called Potts fracture ( fracture subluxation of the ankle)

**Wilson fracture** – a fracture of the volar plate of the middle phalanx of a finger.