

Pediatric Orthopaedic Sport-Related Injuries

Courtney Quinn, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery, Sports Medicine
Inova Medical System
May 9, 2025





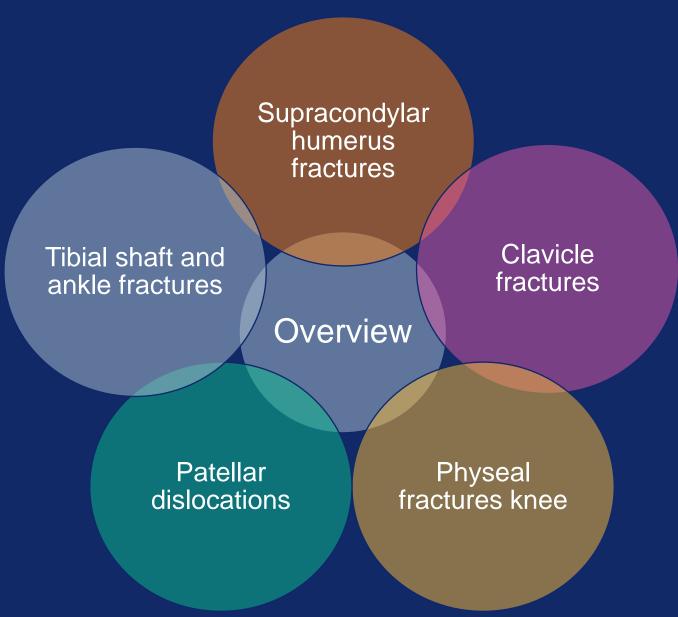
For starters

- Unique MSK features
 - Body composition
 - bony considerations
- Skeletal immaturity
 - Males: ages 15-17
 - Females: ages 14-16
- Importance of accurate injury diagnosis in field and prompt transfer if limb compromised or open wounds











Supracondylar Humerus Fractures

- Prevalence: 2nd most common fracture pattern in kid
- Age group: Typically 5-8 years old
- Mechanism: Fall on outstretched arm
- Common in: Playground falls, gymnastics, trampoline injuries

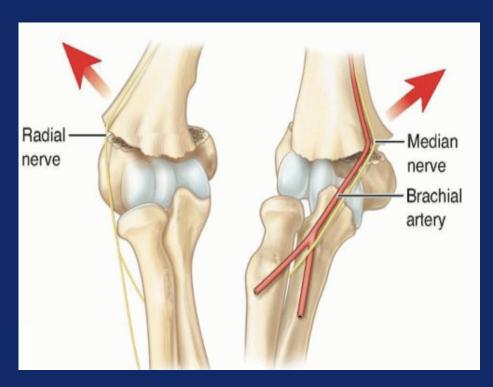


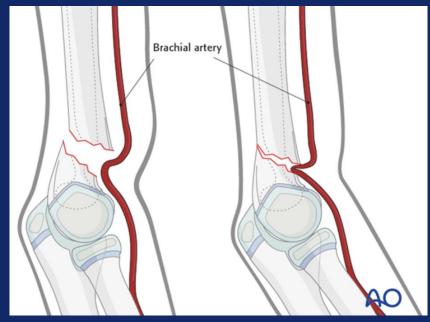




Supracondylar Humerus Fractures

 Relevant anatomy: brachial artery, median nerve, radial nerve, risk of compartment syndrome







Supracondylar Humerus Fractures



EMS Management:

Immobilize in position found Monitor pulses and sensation

Radial pulse absent ~10%
 Assess for open wounds



ED Treatment:

Neurovascular check

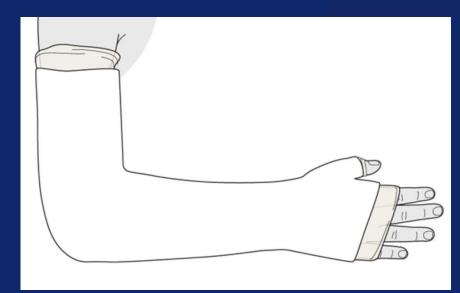
X-ray

Ortho consult if displaced (urgent if no pulses)

Monitor for compartment syndrome



Definitive Treatment



nondisplaced

cast

displaced

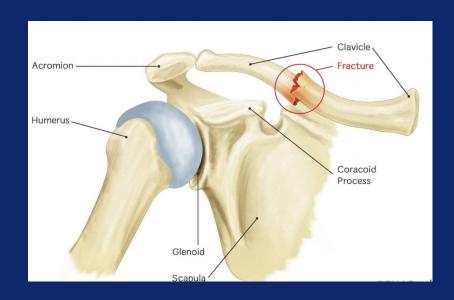
pinning





Clavicle Fractures

- Prevalence: Among the most common pediatric fractures (~8– 15% of all pediatric fractures)
- Mechanism: Fall onto shoulder or FOOSH
- Age group: Broad age range, more frequent in younger children
- Common in: Cycling accidents, football, soccer, wrestling







Clavicle Fractures



EMS Management:

watch for tenting, skin compromise Sling, pain management



ED Treatment:

X-ray, sling or figure-of-eight brace, ortho follow-up

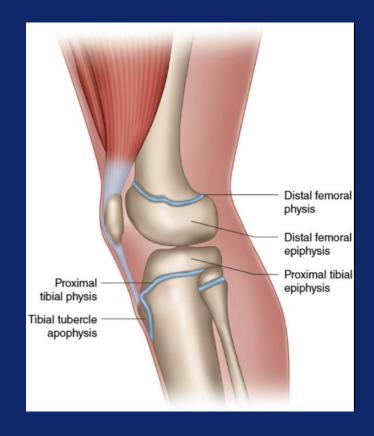




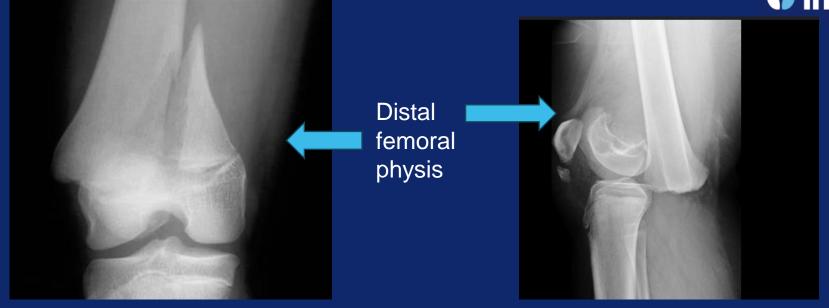


Physeal Fractures of the Knee

- Prevalence: rare, but can cause vascular injury
- Age group: Adolescents during growth spurts
- Mechanism: Direct trauma or twisting; high-energy sports
- Common in: Football, basketball, skateboarding







Proximal tibial physis







Physeal Fractures of the Knee



EMS Management:

Immobilize in position avoid manipulation neurovascular assessment



ED Treatment:

Imaging, NV check, ortho consult
Operative if displaced
Monitor for compartment syndrome



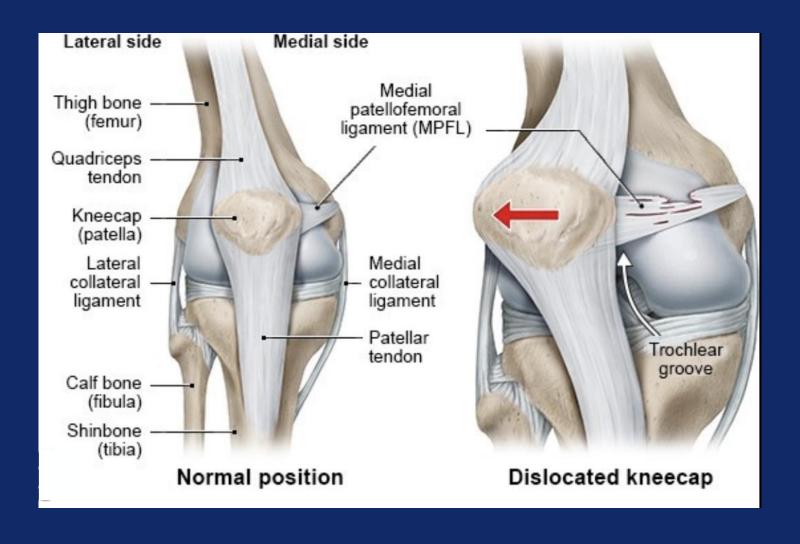
Patellar Dislocations



- Prevalence: Less common, but increasing in active adolescents (especially females)
- Age group: Adolescents, especially ages 10–17
- Mechanism: Twisting on a planted foot with knee in valgus/flexion
- Common in: Dance, soccer, basketball, gymnastics



Patellar Dislocations





Patellar Dislocations







EMS Management:

Knee flexed - stuck
Patella visualized laterally
Try to encourage knee extension to reduce

If not, support in position, transport

ED Treatment:

Sedated reduction if needed Knee immobilizer, WBAT Ortho follow-up



Other Lower Extremity Fractures: Tibial Shaft and Ankle

- Tibial shaft fractures: 3rd most common long bone fracture in children (~15% of long bone fractures)
- Ankle fractures: ~5–10% of pediatric fractures
- Age group:
 - tibial shaft: all ages, esp 4-10
 - ankle: school age and adolescents
- Mechanism: Twisting injuries, especially with cutting or jumping, direct blow
- Common in:
 - tibial shaft: Skiing, football, trampoline falls, motor vehicle collisions
 - ankle: Soccer, basketball, skateboarding







Tibial Shaft and Ankle Fractures

EMS Management:

- Assess NV status, deformity, open wounds
- Immobilization
 - tibia fracture: long leg splint
 - ankle: short leg splint
- Transport for imaging

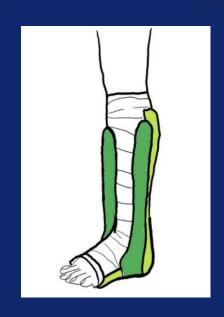




Tibia Shaft and Ankle Fractures

• ER Management:

- X-rays, ortho consult: splinting vs surgery
- Tibia fractures:
 - High risk compartment syndrome
 - Open fractures, administer antibiotics ASAP







Summary

Recognize and stabilize common injuries

Pediatric anatomy affects treatment

Early recognition of NV complications = better outcomes



Thank you!













- Spivey MA & Mencio GA. Pediatric orthopedic trauma. In Rosen's Emergency Medicine (9th ed.), 2021.
- Cheng JCY & Shen WY. Limb fracture pattern in different pediatric age groups: A study of 3,350 children. Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma. 1993;7(1):15–22.
- Rennie L, Court-Brown CM, Mok JYQ, Beattie TF. The epidemiology of fractures in children. Injury. 2007;38(8):913–922.
- Peterson HA. Epiphyseal Growth Plate Fractures. Springer; 2007.
- Leininger B et al. Pediatric ankle fractures: a review. J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2010;18(12):703–713.
- Rewers A et al. Childhood femur fractures, associated injuries, and sociodemographic risk factors: a population-based study. Pediatrics. 2005;115(5):e543–e552.
- Nietosvaara Y, Aalto K, Kallio PE. Acute patellar dislocation in children: Incidence and associated osteochondral fractures. J Pediatr Orthop. 1994;14(4):513–515.