

The facts about broken bones

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PATIENT INFORMATION PAMPHLET FRACTURES: Bones are made of tough stuff , however, like a ruler will bend under pressure so do bones. If that pressure becomes too great they will simply break. Fracture and break are the same thing and there are numerous forms of fractures, all of which will be covered in this pamphlet.

A Closed Fracture is one that does not break the skin and is treated much differently to an open or compound fracture. An Open Fracture breaks the skin and the broken bone is visible. A Complicated Fracture has not only broken a bone but has caused damage to surrounding body parts such as lungs and liver. Where the bone has been splintered, twisted or crushed the break is called a Comminuted Fracture and an Impacted Fracture which is very painful, is one where one end of the broken bone impacts with the other end. The Incomplete Fracture is as its name infers, the fracture does not pass through the entire width of the bone. A Greenstick Fracture is common in young children and is one where the bone bends and partially breaks in the fashion of bending a green tree branch. The Colles Fracture, or Ulna Fracture is one where a break occurs at the end of the main arm bone causing the wrist to extend. A Butterfly Fracture is where the center fragment has two breaks forming a triangle and in a Complete Fracture the break is completely through the bone with both bone sections separating. A Compression Fracture usually occurs in people over 70 years of age and suffering from osteoporosis. It occurs when the bone thins in the lumbar vertebra. A Fissure Fracture is where a crack extends from the surface and into, but not through a long bone while in a Hairline Fracture the crack is so fine the bone fragments do not separate and is also known as a capillary fracture. An Oblique Fracture is one where the break runs parallel along or across the

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bones axis and is usually caused by a sharp blow to the bone. The Spiral Fracture or torsion fracture occurs when the bone is twisted and normally occurs in children up to three years of age. An Unstable Fracture is caused by high level trauma and will still slip after treatment has been administered. A Segmental Fracture occurs when bone fragments separate from the main broken bone and a Fragmental Fracture will take a significant force to make the bone shatter, breaking it in several places. A Double Fracture is when a bone is broken in two places leaving more than two bone segments and finally a Complex Fracture is a closed fracture and the surrounding tissue is badly damaged.

Research

“ The Facts About Broken Bones”. kidshealth. org. Kids Health from Nemours. n. d. web. 3rd Sept. 2011

“ Fractures”. medicinenet. com. MedicineNet. com. We Bring The Doctors Knowledge To You. n. d. web. 3rd Spt. 2011