

CASE REPORT: EVERYTHING IS SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK AND AT THE SAME TIME MORE COMPLEX THAN YOU IMAGINE - CORONAL SHEAR CAPITELLUM FRACTURE

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Introduction: Fracture of the distal humerus involving capitellum is a rare fracture which encompasses less than 1% of 6% distal humerus fracture. The complexity of this injury is best appreciated via computed topography scan. It can be classified using Bryan and Morrey classification (McKee Modification). Open reduction are proven to result better outcomes. This condition is commonly seen in female with osteoporotic bone.

Discussion: 27 years old chinese female with no known comorbidities presented fall onto the outstretched hand during alleged motor vehicle accident. Post trauma patient complained of left elbow pain. Clinical assessment revealed mild swelling and tenderness with limited range of motion. No deformity seen. Initial radiological imaging showed isolated capitellum fracture (Type I). Computed topography imaging then proceeded with 3D imaging noted capitellum fracture extending to trochlea involving lateral epicondyle fracture (Type IV). No neurovascular involvement noted. Patient underwent open reduction, screw fixation and k-wire insertion using both medial and lateral approach. Post operatively patient's elbow was protected with an above elbow backslab.

Conclusion: Expecting the unexpected injury of the elbow is important. Radiographic imaging at primary care level should be carefully reviewed.