

Proximal Fractures Of The Radius In Children

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Fractures of the proximal radius in children account for 1 percent of all children fractures with about 90 percent involving the neck. The rarity of the head fracture is due to its cartilaginous structure thus manifesting more as Salter Harris type I or II epiphyseal separation. The mechanism of injury is usually a valgus stress resulting to compression of the radial neck after a fall from an extended elbow.

The resulting deformity is an angulation of the radial/neck complex which may occur with a separation of the radial head. Dissociation of the radius / capitellum line on x-ray would reflect a functional deficit of pronation and supination. A review of literature would show that there is a poorer prognosis if the child is more than 10 years old, an angulation of more than 30 degrees, and a displacement of more than 3mm. Treatment by close method is preferred and the different techniques of reductions will be discussed. Related injuries of Monteggia lesions will be briefly discussed as well as the annular ligament subluxation.