



University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
GalwayEM.ie

Elbow injuries

(<https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal/elbow-injuries>)

Category

[Trauma and Musculoskeletal \(https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal\)](https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal)

Supracondylar fracture

Undisplaced - Collar & cuff. Refer VFC

Displaced - If neurovascular injury ask advice urgently. Refer Ortho On-call.

Dislocation of elbow

If neurovascular injury, ask advice urgently.

Reduce (sedation in adults - GA in children)

Post reduction X-ray. Re-check neurovascular status. Wool & crepe, sling.

If associated with fracture or joint unstable post reduction refer Ortho On-call.

T or Y intercondylar fractures

Refer Ortho On-call

Fractures condyle/epicondyle

Undisplaced - Backslab. Refer to Fracture Clinic

Displaced - Refer orthopaedics

Pulled elbow

This is a clinical diagnosis. No x-rays necessary in patient with a typical history and examination.

Manipulate - it should go back with a 'click'. Wait 5-10 minutes.

If the child starts to use elbow - discharge - no follow-up.

If the child does not start to use elbow reconsider diagnosis (x-ray if necessary), collar and cuff,

Review Clinic next day if still not using.

https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Pulled_Elbow/

[\(https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Pulled_Elbow/\)](https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Pulled_Elbow/)

Fracture radial head

Undisplaced - Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC. Beware associated injuries

Widely displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

Fracture radial neck

Undisplaced - Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC.

Widely displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

Fracture olecranon

Undisplaced - Wool & crepe. Collar & Cuff. Refer VFC.

Displaced - Refer Ortho On-call.

Dislocation radial head

May be of long standing - ask advice

Elbow injury with radiological evidence of an effusion but no fracture.

Collar and Cuff. (positive fat pad sign) Review Clinic in one week

NB Elbow injuries are treated in a collar and cuff **not** a broad arm sling.

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