

radiolucent
 materials allow passage of x-ray

radiopaque
 materials prevent passage of x-ray leading to white shadows

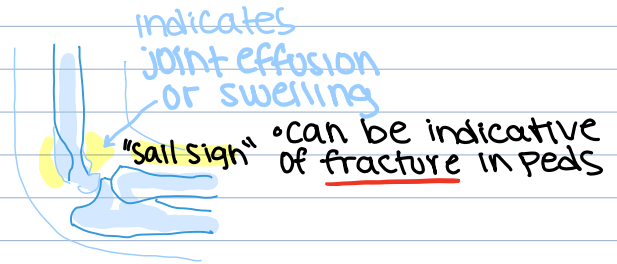
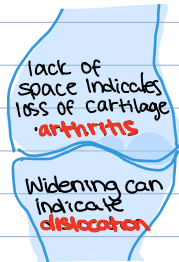
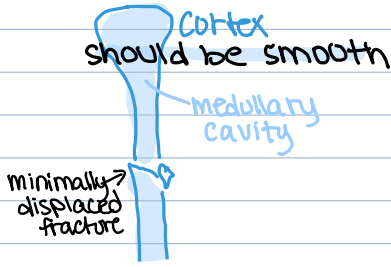
ALIGNMENT anatomic relation between bones → altered by fractures and dislocations

ADEQUACY adequate # of views • min 2 - AP, lateral
• 3 preferred

BONES

CARTILAGE

SOFT TISSUE

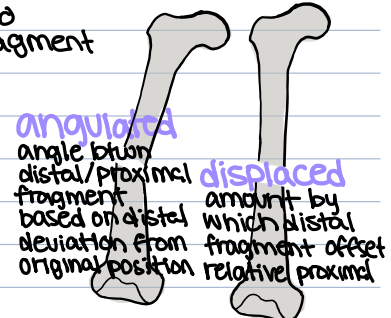
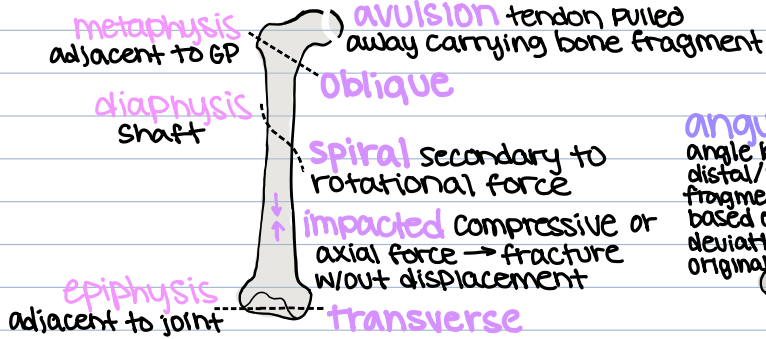
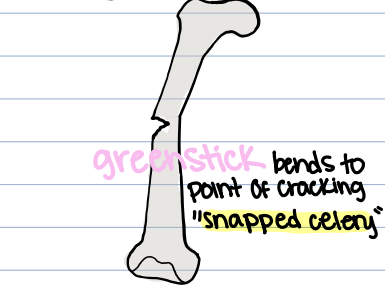
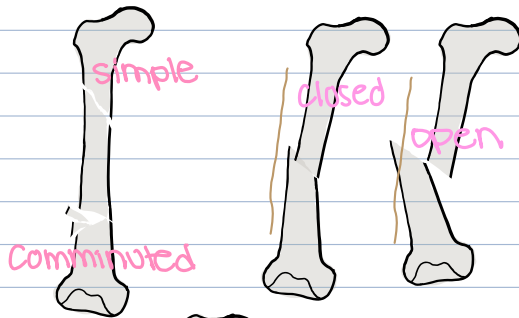


FRACTURES

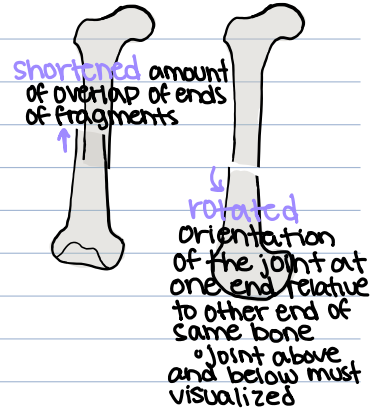
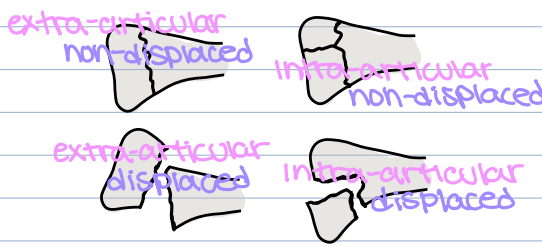
disruption in continuity of all or part of bone cortex

Fractures are commonly described using 5 parameters:

- ① # of fragments
- ② relationship to atmosphere
- ③ location
- ④ direction
- ⑤ relationship of fragments

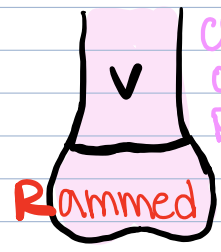
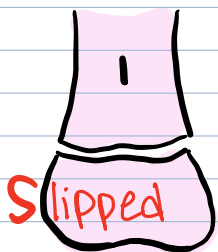


Joint involvement → **intraarticular**



SALTER HARRIS

epiphyseal plate → +metaphysis +epiphysis +BOTH



Crush fracture of epiphyseal plate
more significant trauma

Slipped

Above joint

Lower

Through

Rammed

most common
good prognosis
"corner sign" - small metaphyseal fragment

poor prognosis →
can lead to altered joint mechanics
can lead to growth arrest

Ultrasound

high frequency sound waves to produce images within the body

gallbladder disease, breast lumps, genital/prostate issues, joint inflammation, blood flow problems, monitoring pregnancy, used to guide biopsy

Indications:

- joint effusion
- tendon or ligament injury
- arthrocentesis
- bursal aspiration/injection

Pros: inexpensive, readily available, examine multiple areas, procedures

Cons: user dependent, can't assess deep structures or entire joint.

X-ray

quick, painless tests to produce images of structures esp. bone

bone fractures, arthritis, osteoporosis, infections, breast cancer, swallowed items, digestive tract problems

OSTEOMYELITIS

- soft tissue/muscle swelling or effusion
- ↳ after 10-14 days, periosteal thickening, cortical loss, sclerosis, bone resorption

ARTHRITIS

- osteophyte formation, subchondral sclerosis/cysts, joint space narrowing

CT ± contrast

Series of x-rays to create cross-sections of inside of body (bones, vessels, tissue)

injury from trauma, bone fractures, tumors, cancers, vascular disease, heart disease, infection, guide biopsy

Indications:

- further evaluate fracture
- surgical planning
- evaluate tumors

Cons:

- expensive
- higher exposure to radiation
- limited by patient motion
- ionizing radiation

MRI ± contrast

Use of magnetic fields and radio waves to create images of organs/tissues

aneurysms, multiple sclerosis, stroke, spinal cord disorders, tumors, vessel issues, joint/tendon injury

Indications:

- occult/unusual trauma
- articular imaging
- staging bone/ST tumors
- marrow diseases

Pros: good for ST and marrow

- bone edema contusion
- can delineate other causes of pain

Cons: not so good for bone

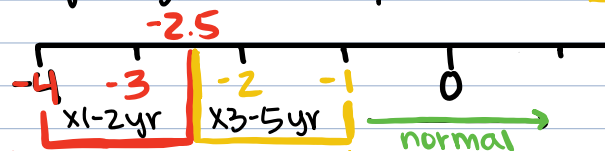
- limitations - time, expense

Dexa Scan

dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry

Compares the patient's bone mineral density against:

1. an age-matched normal patient → **Z-score** (helpful for secondary, children, young adults, men < 50)
2. a young, normal patient → **T-score**



Osteoporosis
If fracture, low bone density
Severe osteoporosis

Screening indications:

- Women > 65 yo
- postmenopausal at ↑ risk
hx of hip fracture, smoking, ↓ excessive alcohol use, ↓ body weight

DEXA hip/lumbar spine