

CBL

Learning objective

By the end of the session the student should be able to

- Identify the normal structures related to elbow joint
- Relate the changes that may occur due to fracture in this area
- Identify radiological anatomy of upper limb
- Recognize that injury to one structure is not isolated but also involves other adjacent structures

CASE SCENARIO

An 8 year old boy was brought to the ER (Emergency room) by his parents after a fall from a bicycle three hours earlier. He is complaining of pain above his elbow and has gross swelling and deformity of his right elbow joint. He is also having numbness in his right hand. On examination, his right radial pulse is not palpable and there is loss of sensation in his right little finger. X-ray shows a fracture of the humerus above the elbow joint, with marked displacement.



QUESTIONS:

1. What anatomical structures are present in this area?
2. What structures do you think have been damaged in this injury?
3. How can you explain the loss of radial pulsation?
4. What is the reason of loss of sensation in little finger?
5. Why is there swelling at the elbow joint?
6. What loss of motor function are you expecting in this patient?
7. How would you describe the type of the fracture in the x-ray?
8. What other sensory loss may be expected by other nerve injuries?
9. Which NSAID would you prefer to use in this case?
10. How do you classify NSAIDs according to their mechanism of action?
11. Describe the process of bone repair.
12. Describe the early and late complications of fractures.