

ABCs Approach to read any orthopedics film:

A	Adequacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess adequacy of x-ray which includes proper number of views(at least two views),penetration, and joint above and joint below in case of mid shaft x-ray, or in case of joint x-ray: mid shaft above and mid shaft below.
	Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess alignment of x-rays
B	Bone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examine bones throughout their entire length for fracture lines and/or distortions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ When seeing a patient with a fracture in the x-ray, describe the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open vs closed fracture ○ Anatomic location of fracture (distal, mid, proximal) and if fracture is intra-articular ○ Fracture line (transverse, oblique, spiral, comminuted) ○ Relationship of fracture fragments (Apposition,displacement, angulation, distraction, dislocation,) ○ Neurovascular status(assessed clinically)
C	Cartilage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examine cartilages (joint spaces) for widening or narrowing
S	Soft tissue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess soft tissues for swelling/effusions

Terminology:

- **Apposition:** amount of end to end contact of the fracture fragments
- **Displacement:** use interchangeably with apposition
- **Bayonette apposition:** overlap of fracture fragments
- **Distraction:** displacement in the longitudinal axis of the bones
- **Dislocation:** disruption of normal relationship of articular surfaces
- **Alignment/Angulation:** Alignment is the relationship in the longitudinal axis of one bone to another/Angulation is any deviation from normal alignment
 - Angulation is described in degrees of angulation of the distal fragment in relation to the proximal fragment—to measure angle draw lines through normal axis of bone and fracture fragment