

# Bone and joint infections

abscess sequestrum refractory cases  
**operative indication : presence of any of the following**

Skin and soft tissues involvement  
 Sinus tract clinical  
 Periods of quiescence followed by acute exacerbations  
 Operative sampling of deep specimens from multiple foci diagnosis  
**chronic Osteomyelitis**

painful limp  
 no systemic and often  
 no local signs or symptoms  
 Brodie's abscess signs and symptoms on plain radiograph  
**sub-acute Osteomyelitis**

Pain, malaise, restlessness.  
 Loss of function clinical  
 Soft tissue abscess and swelling.  
 Septicemia and distant abscesses  
 Septic arthritis  
 Growth disturbance in skeletally immature and deformity  
 Pathological fracture  
 Chronic osteomyelitis complications  
**acute Osteomyelitis**

Empirical therapy not indicated  
 IV antibiotics must be based on deep cultures  
 Surgical debridement  
**Treatment**

Pain, malaise, restlessness.  
 Loss of function clinical  
 Soft tissue abscess and swelling.  
 soft tissue swelling (early)  
 bone demineralization (10-14 days)  
 sequestra radiolucency (later)  
 involucrum periosteal new bone (later)  
 radiological changes  
 diagnosis  
 ↑ WBC count - mainly neutrophils  
 ↑ ESR not specific  
 blood cultures may be positive  
 C-reactive protein monitor response to treatment  
 Definite Diagnosis By histopathology  
**acute hematogenous Osteomyelitis**

hot swollen joint  
 painful to any motion  
 inability to bear weight  
 joint is fixed in the position of ease  
 Basic lab for infection (CBC, ESR and CRP) and Blood cultures  
 diagnosis  
 Plain films and Ultrasound  
 Joint aspiration: WBC >50,000 (>90%PMNL)  
**Septic arthritis**

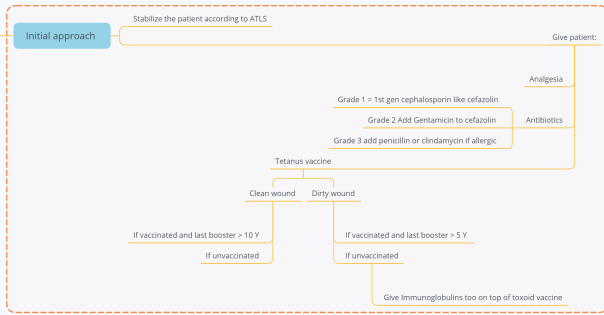
**EMPIRICAL TREATMENT**  
 Newborn (less than 4 months) oxacillin (penicillin) + 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 Children (4 years of age or older) oxacillin or cefazolin  
 Adults 21 years of age or older oxacillin or cefazolin  
 Sickle cell anemia fluoroquinolones  
 alternative treatment 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 Hemodialysis and IV drug abuser penicillinase-resistant synthetic penicillins (PRSP) + ciprofloxacin  
 alternative treatment vancomycin with ciprofloxacin

**EMPIRICAL TREATMENT**  
 Newborn (up to 3 months of age) Initial treatment PRSP + 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 Children (3 months to 14 years of age) Initial treatment PRSP + 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 alternative treatment vancomycin + 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 Acute monoarticular septic arthritis in adults Antibiotic treatment PRSP + 3rd -generation cephalosporin  
 Alternative treatment PRSP plus ciprofloxacin

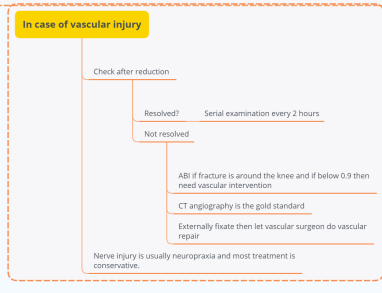
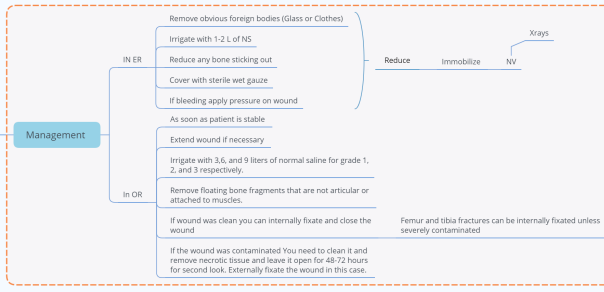
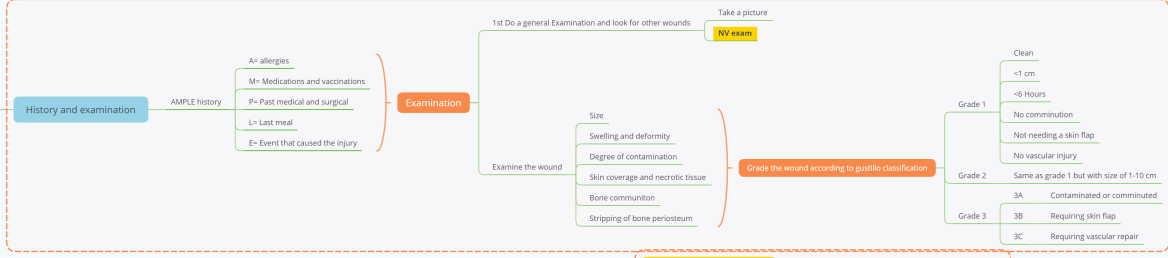
**Patient came to ER with an open wound after an RTA and the leg looked deformed.**

How can open fractures present?

- Usually from high energy but can be caused by low energy in elderly patients with fragile skin
- A clear picture of an open wound and visible bone fracture.
- A small skin opening that is oozing blood



**Open fractures**



Common adult fractures

Don't forget ATLS if patient is unstable

### Hip fractures

- General info**
  - Most common fracture of lower limb
  - associated with osteoporosis
  - Caused by falls from standing height
  - Rule out other causes of fall
  - Commonly associated with other fragility fractures
  - Classified into intra-capsular and extra-capsular
  - Intra-capsular fracture associated with AVN
- History**
  - Full details of event
  - rule out causes of fall
  - Detailed systemic review
- Physical examination**
  - Abduction external rotation and shortening
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - Sciatic nerve by ankle dorsiflexion
  - NV exam
  - Avoid ROM if fracture is suspected
- Investigations**
  - AP and lateral hip
  - AP pelvis and AP femur
  - MRI if you can't tell (occuly) if there is a fracture or not
  - No reduction or traction
  - DVT prophylaxis
- Treatment**
  - Urgent all cases and should be done in 24-48 hours
  - Hemiarthroplasty in old (>60)
  - Internal fixation in young
  - Displaced
  - Intra-capsular
  - Percutaneous in situ fixation using cannulated screws
  - Nondisplaced
  - Stable
  - Extra-capsular
  - Intramedullary fixation using cephalomedullary nails
  - Unstable if:
    - 1- Large lesser trochanter fragment
    - 2- Extension to sub-trochanteric region
    - 3- Four parts fracture
- Complications**
  - High rate of nonunion
  - Life changing event (high mortality)
  - AVN
  - VTE

### Clavicle

- General info**
  - Proximal, middle, and lateral thirds
  - Caused by fall on outstretched hand
  - Middle third is most common fracture
  - Proximal third is associated with brachial plexus injury.
  - Pneumothorax is a possible complication
- On examination**
  - Expose and look "SEADS" skin tenting is a common finding.
  - Do a NV exam
  - You can check for any signs of pneumothorax
- Investigations**
  - AP view and Clavicle view (sophalic tilt) X-rays
  - Mostly conservative using figure 8 splint or a sling
- Treatment**
  - Skin tenting
  - ORIF in:
    - Severe displacement 100% or >2 cm overlap
    - Comminuted (more than 3 parts)

### Proximal Humerus

- General info**
  - Surgical neck fractures are more common and have better prognosis
  - Anatomical neck fractures have worse outcomes(AVN)
  - Caused by high energy in young and low in elderly because of osteoporosis
- Physical examination**
  - Expose and look SEADS. Make sure to check in the axilla
  - Examine Axillary nerve. Deltoid atrophy and sensation over it
  - Examine joint above and below (cervical spine and elbow)
  - Ask patient to move his hand and elbow
- Investigations**
  - AP, Lateral, and Axillary views
  - Fracture is defined by fragment displacement
  - If no displacement then it is a 1 part fracture
- Treatment**
  - Conservative if not displaced
    - Sling and mwb for 6-8 weeks
    - Early ROM exercises after 2-4 weeks
  - ORIF in young patients or old patients with no anatomical neck fractures
  - Surgical if displaced
    - Shoulder hemiarthroplasty in old patients with anatomical neck fractures or fracture dislocations

### Femoral shaft fracture

- General info**
  - Rule out pathological fracture in young if low energy
  - Knee ligament injuries 50%
  - Ipsilateral femoral neck fractures
  - Associated with:
    - Floating knee
    - ARDS and fat embolism
- Physical examination**
  - Knee effusion and ecchymosis
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - NV exam
  - Compartment syndrome
- Investigations**
  - AP and lateral views of femur
  - Knee AP and lateral
  - CT if femoral neck fracture is suspected
  - Traction until surgery (either skeletal or skin)
- Treatment**
  - External fixation
  - Unstable patient
  - IMN
  - Stable patient
  - Malunion is a common complication
- Complications**
  - Beware of VTE
  - Infections

### Humerus shaft

- General examination**
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - NV Exam for radial nerve palsy (wrist drop)
  - Check for compartment syndrome
- Investigations**
  - 2 orthogonal views
- Treatment**
  - Conservative
    - Closed reduction then use sugar tong sling (U-shaped stab) for 1 week then use functional brace for 4-6 weeks
  - ORIF
    - Comminuted
    - Open fractures
    - Obese patients
    - Bilateral fractures
    - Floating elbow

### Tibial shaft fractures

- General info**
  - High suspicion of Open fracture (thin skin)
  - Most common large long bone fracture
  - Highest risk of compartment syndrome
  - 20% associated with ankle intra-articular fractures
- Physical examination**
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - NV exam
  - Compartment syndrome (serial examination)
- Investigations**
  - AP & lateral X-rays of tibia and fibula
  - X-rays of joint above and joint below
  - CT if intra-articular
- Treatment**
  - If no displacement, comminution, and shortening
    - Conservative
    - Bivalved above knee full cast
  - Above knee back-stab and U stap
    - IMN
    - Surgical
- Complications**
  - Nonunion (most common)
  - Delayed union
  - Infection
  - DVT/PE

### Both bone fractures

- General info**
  - Fracture from fall or direct blow
  - Very unlikely to fracture one without disrupting their articulation
  - Both bone fracture
  - Monteggia fracture: Proximal ulna fracture and radius dislocation
  - Galeazzi fracture: Fracture of distal radius and disruption of DRUJ
- Physical examination**
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - Examine median, ulnar and radial nerves
  - Examine the vasculature
  - Check for compartment syndrome
- Investigations**
  - 2 Orthogonal X-rays
  - CT if intra-articular
- Treatment**
  - Both bone fracture
    - ORIF after closed reduction and splinting to relief pain in ER.
  - Monteggia fracture
    - ORIF Ulna and closed reduction of radius
  - Galeazzi fracture
    - ORIF Radius and closed reduction of DRUJ

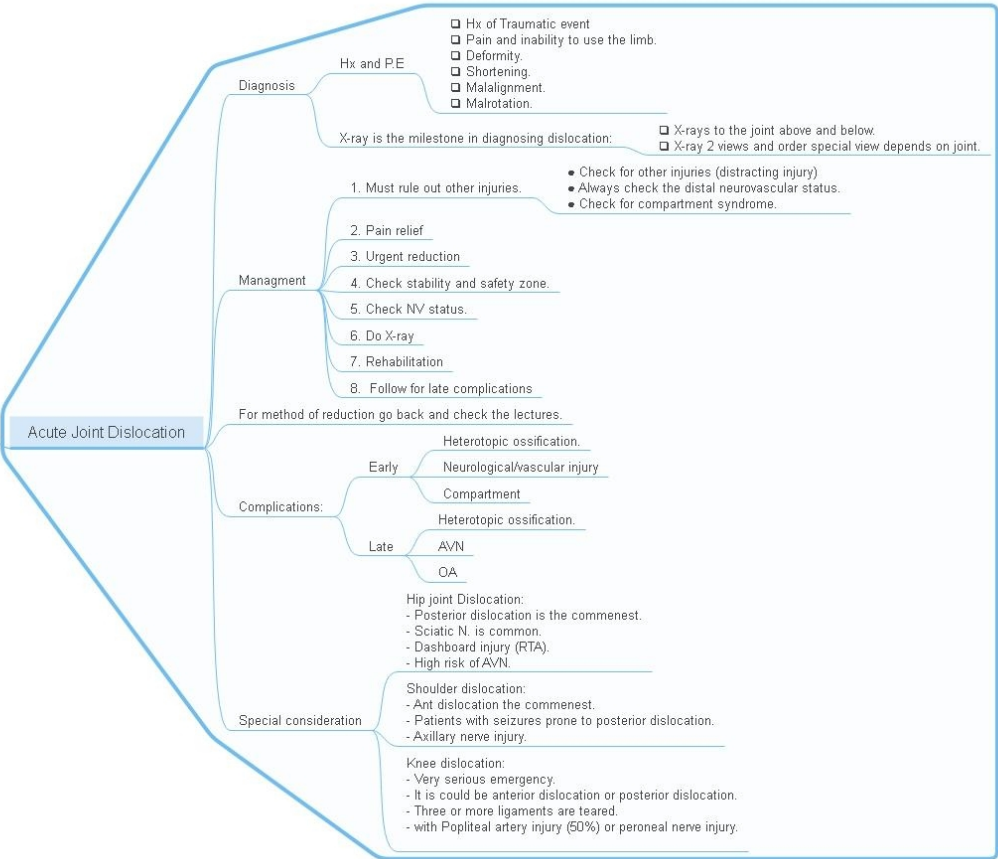
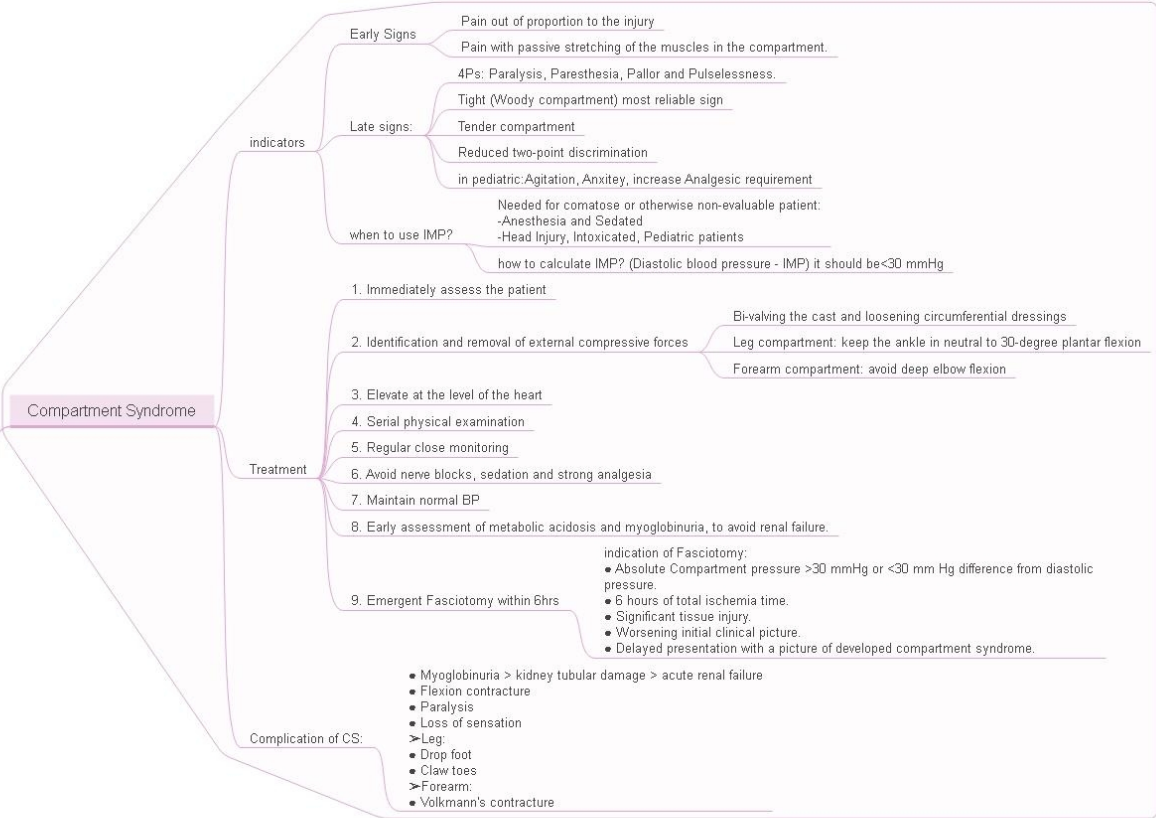
### Ankle Fractures

- General info**
  - Low energy torsional fractures
  - Stable or unstable (lateral displacement of talus)
  - Medial, lateral or bi-malleolar
  - Below level of ankle with intact talofibular syndesmosis: Weber A
  - At level of ankle with intact or partially torn talofibular syndesmosis: Weber B
  - Above level of ankle with disrupted talofibular syndesmosis and widening of distal talofibular articulation: Weber C
- Physical examination**
  - Feel for tenderness on Bone, soft tissue and joint line
  - Expose and look SEADS
  - NV exam
- Investigations**
  - AP and lateral
  - Mortise view
  - Long leg x-rays if solitary medial malleolus fracture (proximal fibular fracture)
  - CT if intra-articular
- Treatment**
  - Surgery
    - Medial or bimalleolar
    - Splint NWB 6 weeks
    - Weber A
  - ORIF if widened medial joint line
  - Weber B & C
  - if not widened call Ortho for stress x-rays

### Distal radius fractures

- General info**
  - Most common fracture of upper extremity
  - High energy in young and low in old because of osteoporosis
  - Either extra or intra-articular
  - Extra-articular
    - Cole's fracture: Dorsal displacement (dinner fork)
    - Smith's fracture: Volar displacement (Garden spade)
  - Intra-articular
    - Volar or dorsal Barton fractures
- Investigations**
  - Two orthogonal X-ray views
  - CT if Barton's
- Treatment**
  - Conservative in stable extra-articular fractures
    - Closed reduction and Below elbow cast.
    - Send patient home if reduction is successful
    - instruct patient to come if pain is out of proportion
    - Check alignment in 1 week (swelling is gone giving more space for motion in the cast which can disturb the alignment)
    - Check again in 1 week
  - ORIF in intra-articular (2cm displacement) or unstable extra-articular

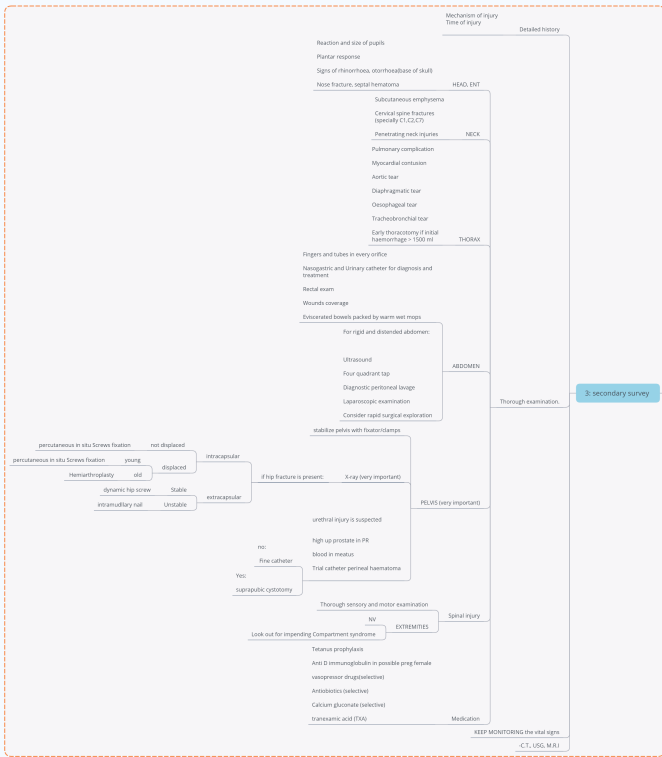
**Management**



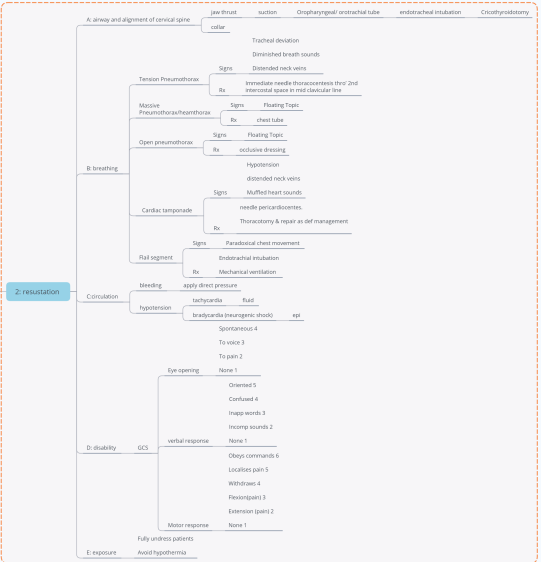
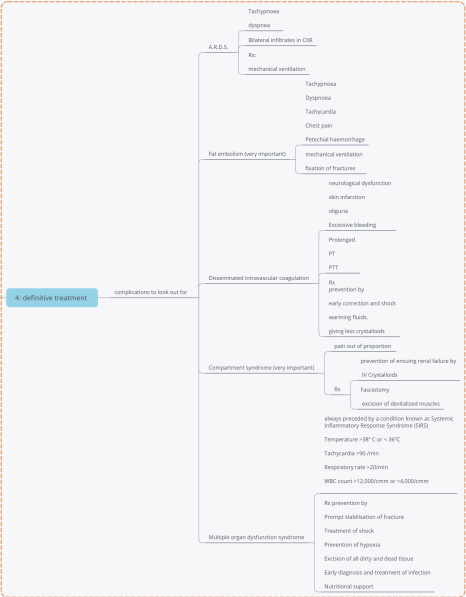
### Multiple trauma

#### 1: primary survey

calling 999 always and keeping oriented? to assess situation



#### 2: secondary survey



# Cauda equina syndrome

## Clinical

- Lower back pain /sciatica
- Urinary retention
- Bowel incontinence
- Saddle anesthesia

## Causes

- Central disc prolapse
- Burst fracture of lumbar spine
- Tumors compressing lower nerve roots
- Epidural hematoma
- Severe spinal stenosis
- Stab wounds or bullets

## Investigations

- X-ray initially
- MRI is the best
- CT if MRI is contraindicated

## Management

- Emergency decompression (discectomy) within 24 hrs