

Fall on an outstretched hand/arm: complications

Clavicle fracture

Humerus

- Anterior shoulder dislocation: axillary n. injury

- surgical neck of humerus in an old lady: axillary n. injury/posterior humoral circumflex artery

- supracondylar fracture in a child: median n. & brachial artery injuries, compartment syndrome (which can cause Volkmann contracture)

Ulna/radius

- proximal ulnar fracture (Monteggia fracture): Posterior interosseous n. injury (branch of radial n.); no thumb extension, numbness in back of hand

- radial shaft fracture with dislocation of the distal radioulnar joint (Galeazzi fracture): usually no nerve injury

- radial and DORSAL displacement of the distal fragment of the radius (Colles fracture) after fall with wrist EXTENDED in a woman with osteoporosis

- radial and PALMAR (volar) displacement of the distal fragment of the radius (Smith fracture) after fall with wrist FLEXED in a woman with osteoporosis

Carpal bones

- scaphoid fracture in a child: possible osteonecrosis

- hook of the hamate fracture: ulnar n. damage

- lunate dislocation after fall on extended wrist: median n. damage

Serious fracture complications

- compartment syndrome, fat emboli, avascular necrosis, infection, osteomyelitis, nerve damage, blood vessel damage, non-union, limb shortening