

MONTEGGIA FRACTURE

- Fracture of the **proximal third of the ulna** with **dislocation of the radial head** due to disruption of proximal radioulnar joint.



BADO CLASSIFICATION of Monteggia Fracture

Type	Ulna Fracture	Radial Head Dislocation	Mechanism
I	Anterior angulation	Anterior	Hyperpronation
II	Posterior angulation	Posterior	Direct blow, flexion injury
III	Lateral angulation	Lateral	Varus stress
IV	Fracture of both bones	Anterior	High-energy trauma

MECHANISM OF INJURY

- Fall on outstretched hand with forearm in **hyperpronation**.
- Direct blow to the ulna.

CLINICAL FEATURES

- Pain, swelling, and deformity over proximal forearm.
- Limited elbow and forearm movement.
- Palpable **radial head dislocation** (especially in children).
- Always assess **neurovascular status**, particularly **posterior interosseous nerve (PIN)**.

RADIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- X-ray (AP and lateral views)** of forearm including elbow and wrist.
- Look for:
 - Ulna fracture**
 - Dislocated **radial head** (use **radiocapitellar line** – it should pass through the capitellum in all views).



TREATMENT

In Children

- Closed reduction and above elbow cast** (Type I most common).
- Monitor for radial head position.
- Above elbow POP slab and later converted to cast.
 - ✓ Elbow flexed to 90–100°
 - ✓ Forearm in **full supination**
 - ✓ Duration: **4–6 weeks**

In Adults

- Open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF)** of ulna with plating.
- Radial head usually reduces spontaneously once ulna is fixed.

- If not: **open reduction of radial head.**

COMPLICATIONS

- Missed radial head dislocation (especially in children).
- Posterior interosseous nerve injury.
- Malunion or nonunion of ulna.
- Elbow stiffness.

COMPARISON TABLE: MONTEGGIA VS GALEAZZI

Feature	Monteggia	Galeazzi
Bone fractured	Proximal ulna	Distal radius
Joint dislocated	Radial head at elbow	Distal radioulnar joint (wrist)
Common age group	Children	Adults
Mechanism	Fall with hyperpronation	Fall with axial load + pronation
Treatment (adults)	ORIF of ulna	ORIF of radius