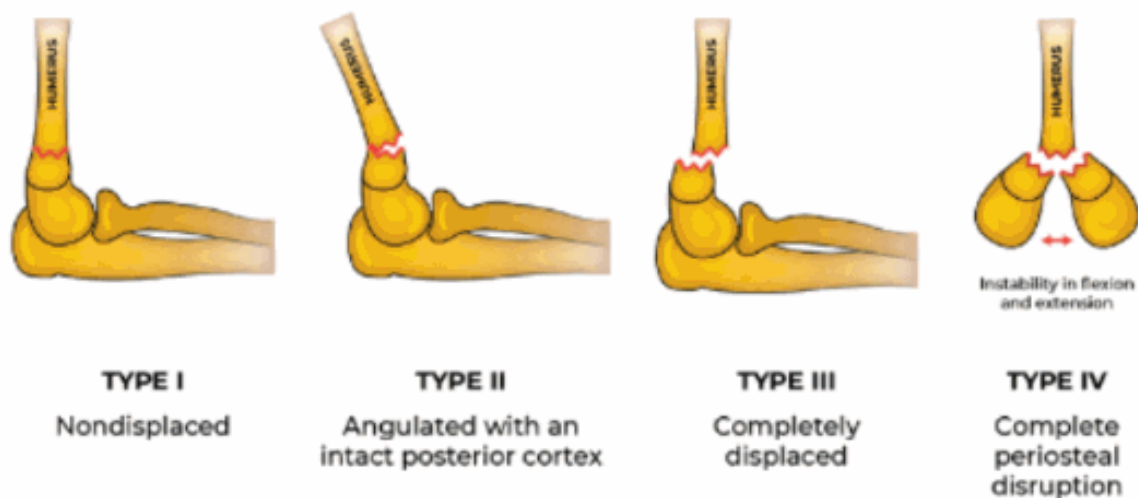




Supracondylar Fracture

What is a Supracondylar Fracture?

A Supracondylar fracture is a broken *humerus* bone in the arm near the elbow. Most Supracondylar fractures occur from trauma, such as falling on an outstretched hand. These occur most often in *children* ages 5-7 years old who have *open growth plates*. There are different types of Supracondylar fractures, depending on the nature of the broken bone.



How is it diagnosed?

Supracondylar fractures are usually diagnosed on X-rays.

How is it treated?

Treatment for Supracondylar fractures depends on the type and severity of fracture.

- **Type I Fracture:**
Immobilization in a cast: the arm is placed in a long-arm cast for 3-4 weeks. A follow up x-ray is recommended 1 week after the initial injury to re-evaluate the arm. These fractures tend to be more stable and less prone to complications.
- **Type II-Type IV Fractures:**
These fracture types often require **surgery** because they are more serious and have a higher rate of complications. They are prone to being *unstable*, may cause nerve/artery injuries, and are unlikely to heal on their own. During surgery, an orthopedic surgeon places pins to re-align the bones to help the healing process.