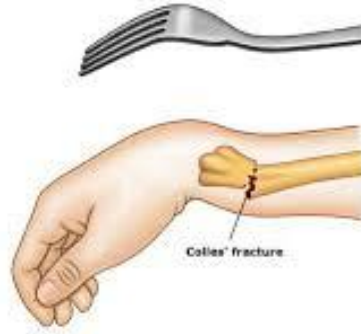


MUSCULOSKELETAL

COLLES FRACTURE

A Colles fracture is a distal radial fracture with dorsal angulation. You may see the classic **dinner fork deformity** of the wrist. A fall onto an outstretched hand is the usual mechanism.



Radiographic features include posterior and radial displacement, dorsal angulation and, frequently, impaction.



Management

Provide analgesia.

Elevate the limb to prevent swelling.

Assess neurovascular status and reassess regularly. If there is a neurovascular deficit discuss with a senior as an emergency reduction may be necessary.

If the fracture is compound or grossly unstable then apply a backslab and refer to orthopaedics.

Fractures that are displaced but lack the above features are suitable for discharge with a futuro splint or backslab. Discuss these cases with orthopaedics as they may instruct the patient to reattend the following day for reduction and fixation.

Undisplaced fractures can be treated with a futuro splint & virtual fracture clinic.

