

65 y/o F presents after a fall on an
outstretched arm

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A large, stylized oak leaf graphic in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. The leaf has a prominent central vein and several smaller veins branching off it. The leaf's edge is serrated.

Colles Fracture



Frontal radiograph of the left hand shows a displaced, comminuted fracture through distal radial metaphyseal region with extension of the fracture line into the radiocarpal joint space.

An associated displaced ulnar styloid process avulsion fracture.



On the lateral radiograph again noted is an acute, minimally displaced comminuted intra-articular fracture through the distal radial metaphyseal region with dorsal angulation.

Colles fracture

- Fracture of the distal radial metaphyseal region with dorsal angulation and impaction
- Common in patients with osteoporosis, most frequently seen in elderly women
- Mechanism: secondary to a fall on an outstretched hand with a pronated forearm in dorsiflexion
- Imaging: radiographs are sufficient. Fracture is usually extra-articular, usually proximal to the radioulnar joint. Dorsal angulation of the distal fracture fragment is present to a variable degree. There is usually impaction with resultant shortening of the radius. Associated ulnar styloid fracture is common
- Rx: closed reduction and cast immobilization

References

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- Fallahi F et al: Explorative study of the sensitivity and specificity of the pronator quadratus fat pad sign as a predictor of subtle wrist fractures. Skeletal Radiol. 42(2):249-53, 2013