35 y/o M presents with recent leg trauma

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Tibial plateau fracture

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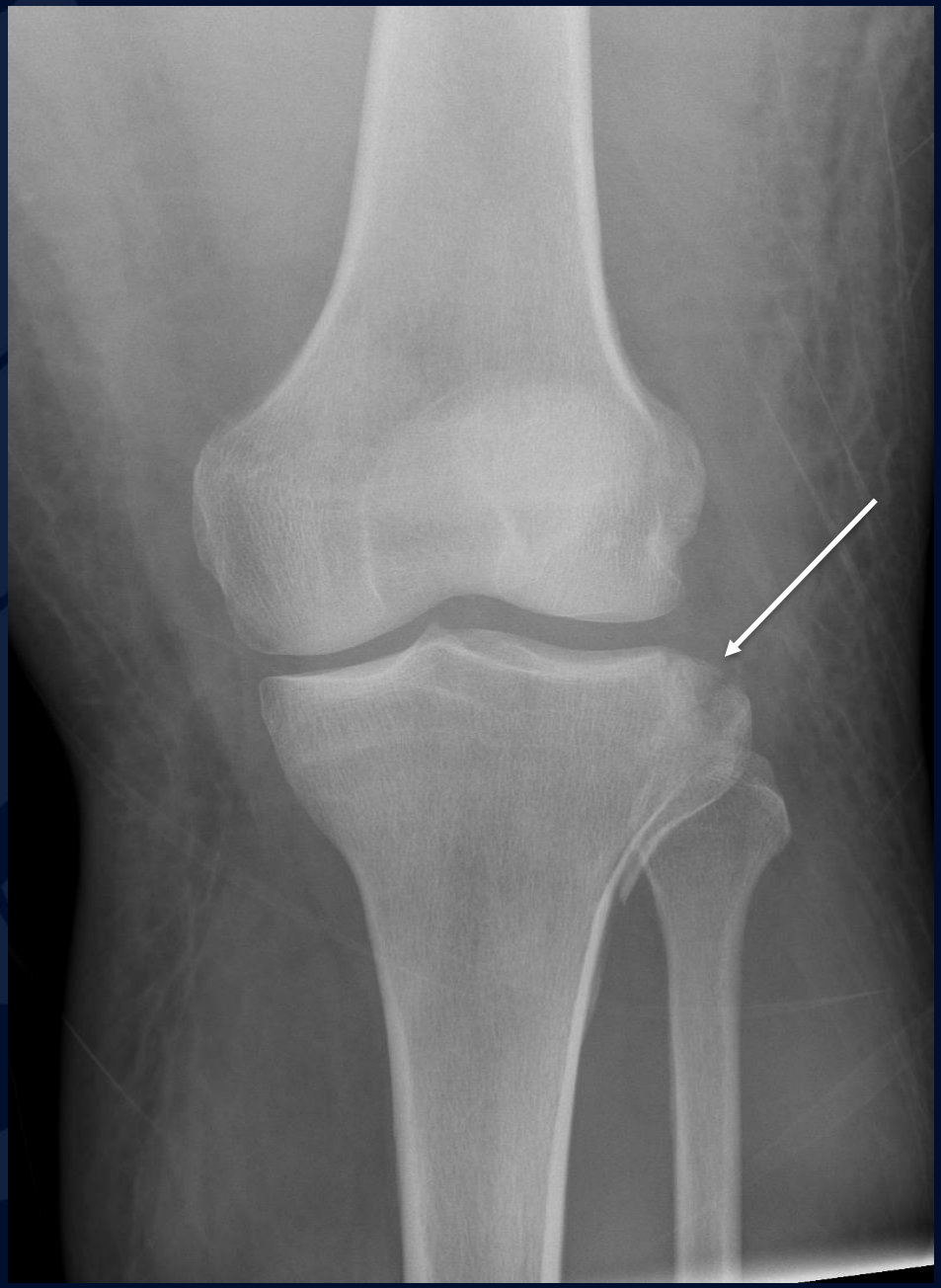

AP view of the knee demonstrates depression of the lateral tibial plateau with minimally displaced fracture fragment

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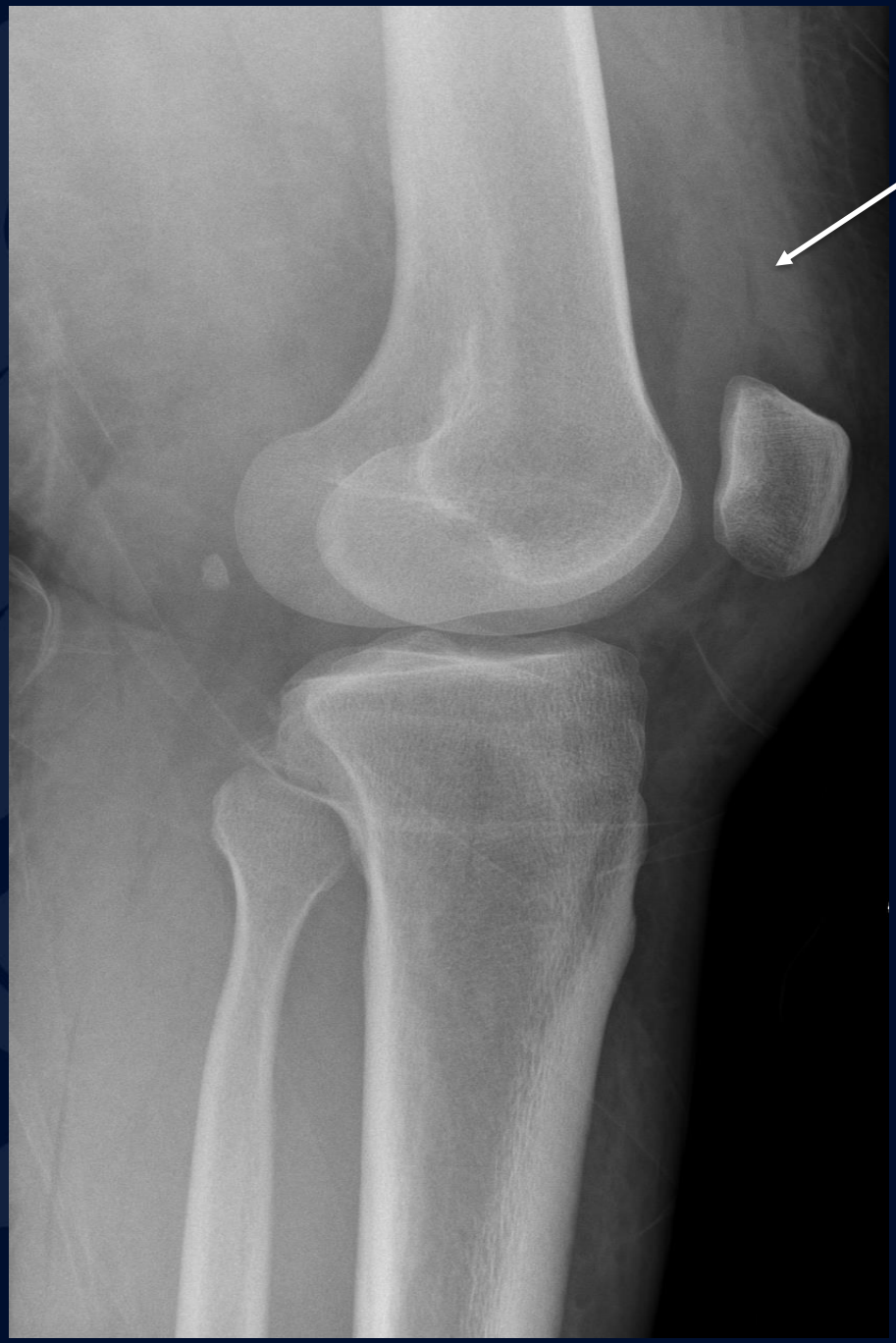

Subcutaneous soft tissue edema as well as knee joint effusion

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Tibial plateau fracture

Tibial plateau fracture: originally termed bumper or fender fracture. Only 25% of tibial plateau fractures result from impact with automobile bumpers.

Most common mechanism of injury is axial loading (e.g. falling from a significant height). Soft tissue injuries (e.g. cruciate and collateral ligaments) occur in approximately 10% of patients. Lateral plateau fractures are more common than the medial plateau. If there are medial plateau fractures, it usually occurs in conjunction with lateral tibial plateau fractures.

Imaging: plain films underestimate the severity of injury. Lipohemarthrosis is present. CT is helpful in accurately defining the extent of injury. MRI is helpful in assessment of soft tissue injury around the joint.

Schatzker classification is the system for classifying tibial plateau fractures.

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