

Supracondylar Humerus Fractures In Children

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Fractures around the elbow are extremely common in the skeletally immature. It accounts for 65% of all fractures in the upper extremity.

Supracondylar humerus fractures account for 16% of all childhood fractures and is the commonest fracture around the elbow, requiring hospitalization.

Assessment of supracondylar humerus fractures and a sound knowledge of the anatomy around this region is paramount in treatment of these fractures. It is important for the clinician to understand the fracture pattern and the potential complications that may arise. The correct interpretation of radiographs and clinical signs are essential in ensuring appropriate treatment

Treatment methods are based the type of fracture (based on classification), age of the patient, expertise and availability of facilities. Open reductions for these type of fractures are not as commonly performed due to a better understanding of these fracture patterns and due to the expertise and equipment that may be available.

Current issues with regards to supracondylar humerus fractures in children are the protocol for treatment when there is a vascular compromise, the methods of fixation of the fractures and the management of complications that may arise.