

What are fractures?

A break or crack in a bone is called a fracture.

- In the case of an **open fracture**, the broken bone may **pierce** the skin surface.
- But in a **closed fracture** the **skin** around the fracture is intact.
- However, broken bones may be unstable causing **internal bleeding** and the casualty may develop shock.

Types of Bone fractures



Normal

Comminuted



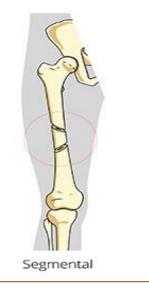


Oblique

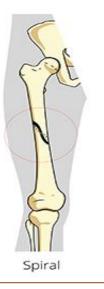


Open / compound

Oblique displaced







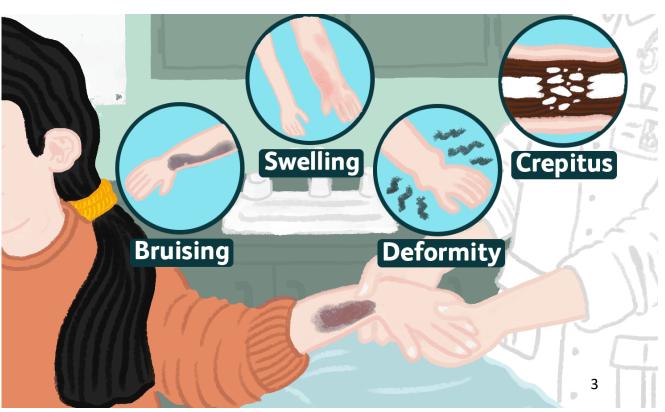


Signs & Symptoms

Look for:

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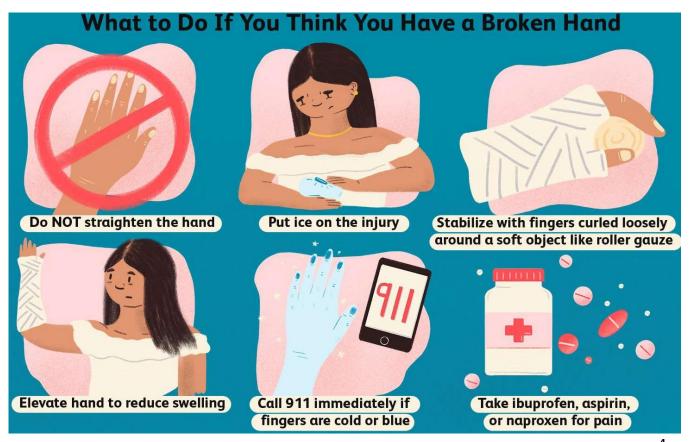
- > **Deformity**, **swelling** and **bruising** around the fracture.
- > Pain and/or difficulty moving the area.
- > A **limb** may look **shorter**, **twisted** or **bent**.
- > A grating noise or feeling from the ends of the broken bones.
- Difficulty or being unable to move the limb normally
- A wound where you can see the bone sticking out (known as an open fracture).
- Signs of shock, particularly with a fracture of a thigh bone, hip or pelvis.



What to do



- If it is an open fracture, cover the wound with a sterile dressing or a clean non-fluffy cloth.
- Apply pressure around the wound and not over the protruding bone, to control any bleeding.
- Then secure the dressing with a bandage.
- Advise the casualty to keep still while you support the injured part to stop it from moving.
- Do this by holding the joint above and below the injured area.

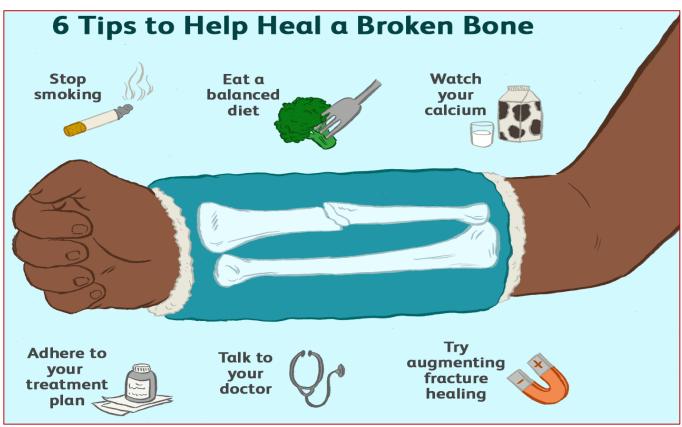


What to do



> Once you've done this, **call** 122 for **emergency** help.

Do not move the casualty until the injured part is secured, unless they are in immediate danger. You can secure an upper limb fracture with a sling and a lower limb fracture with broad fold bandages.



If necessary, treat for shock, but do not raise the legs if either are suspected to be broken or there is injury to the pelvis or a hip.

> Monitor until help arrives.

Injuries that involve body tissues apart from bone are generally classified as soft tissue injuries. Sprains, strains and bruises are all soft tissue injuries, although the cause and tissues involved in each injury are different.

First aid for sprains, strains and joint injuries:

- Suggestions on immediate treatment for sprains, strains and joint injuries, to prevent further damage include:
- ✓ Rest
- ✓ Ice
- ✓ Compression
- ✓ Elevation



✓ **Rest** – keep the injured area supported and avoid using for 48-72 hours.



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- ✓ Ice apply ice to the injured area for 20 minutes every two hours for the first 48-72 hours.
- ✓ Compression apply a firm elastic bandage over the area, extending above and below the painful site.
- \checkmark Elevation always raise the injured area above the level of the heart.



- \checkmark **Referral** as soon as possible, see a doctor.
- ✓ **No Heat** heat will increase bleeding.
- \checkmark No Alcohol alcohol increases bleeding and swelling.
- ✓ **No Running** running or exercise increases blood flow, delaying healing.
- ✓ No Massage massage increases swelling and bleeding, also delaying healing.



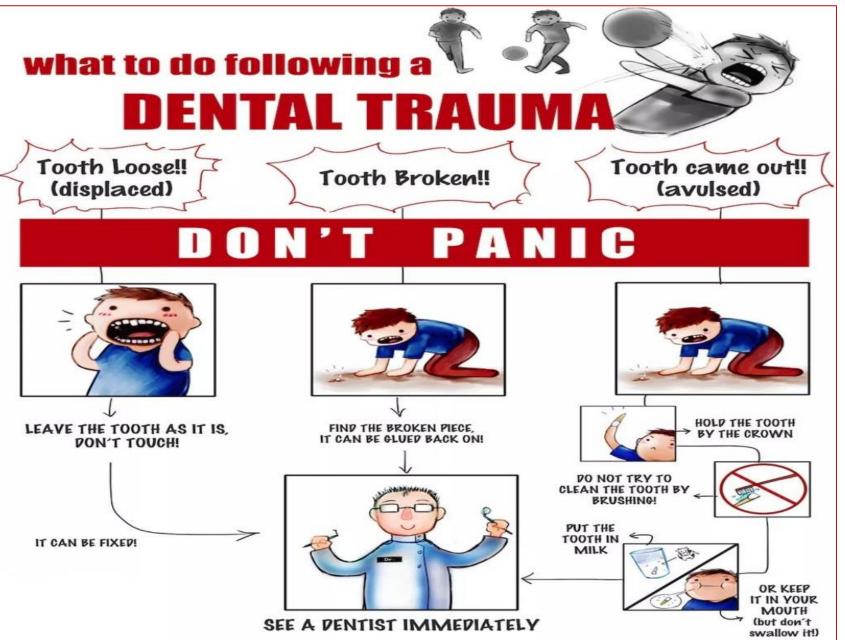




First aid for dislodged teeth

 It may be possible to save a tooth that has been knocked out with prompt dental treatment.

Rinse the tooth in saline, milk, or saliva and see your dentist immediately.

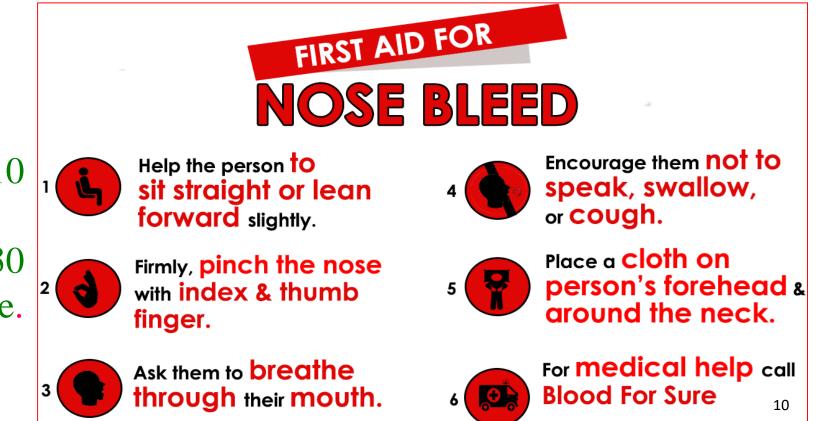




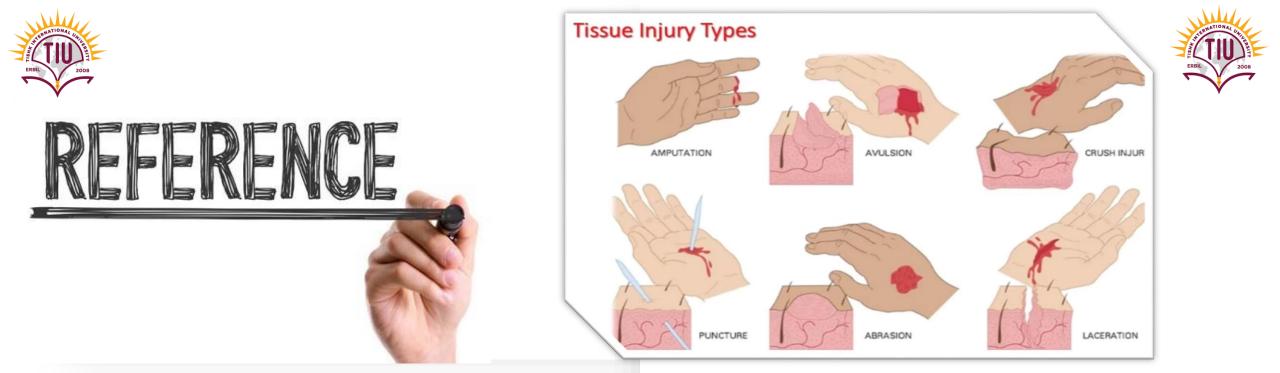
First aid for nose bleeds



✓ Stop the activity.
✓ Sit with your head leaning forward.
✓ Pinch your nostrils together and breathe through your mouth.



- ✓ Hold your nose for at least 10 minutes.
- ✓ If bleeding continues past 30 minutes, seek medical advice.



- <u>https://www.opaortho.com/types-of-bone-fractures/</u>
- <u>https://www.opaortho.com/types-of-bone-fractures/</u>
- <u>https://formortho.com/fracture-broken-bone/</u>
- <u>https://www.eastcare.co.nz/first-aid-for-stopping-nose-bleeds/</u>
- <u>https://www.stjohnvic.com.au/news/how-to-stop-a-nose-bleed/</u>
- <u>https://leedervilledental.com.au/dental-trauma/</u>

