

Proximal Radius Fracture (requiring further x-ray)

Elbow 6

Fracture Care Team: Shared Care Plan

Trust Switchboard for both sites: 0300 131 4500
Fracture clinic and orthopaedic outpatient appointments:
Eastbourne 0300 131 4788
Conquest 0300 131 4861
Casting Department: Eastbourne 0300 131 5564
Casting Department: Conquest 0300 131 4860

This information leaflet explains the ongoing management of your injury. Your case has been reviewed by an Orthopaedic Consultant (Bone Specialist).

You have sustained a fracture to one of the bones in your elbow (Proximal radius). Please see the picture below to understand where this injury is. This normally takes approximately 6 weeks to unite (heal). You may use the arm in the meantime and indeed it is important to keep the elbow moving to prevent stiffness. You should however avoid any heavy lifting for the full 6 weeks. Take pain killers as required. If you are worried that you are unable to follow this rehabilitation plan, or have any questions, then please phone the Fracture Care Team for advice.

Picture of injury



Fracture clinic and X-ray

You will be reviewed in the Fracture clinic where you may have a repeat x-ray at approximately 1 - 2 weeks post injury to check there has been no movement of the fracture.

If at this stage you are still struggling regaining the range of movement in your elbow we can discuss the possibility of a referral to physiotherapy to help.

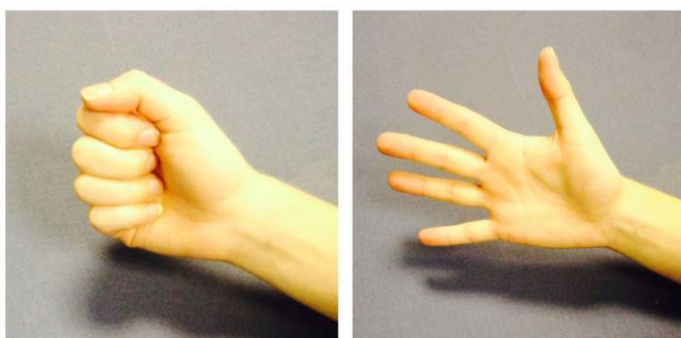
Please follow the Management / Rehabilitation plan shown below

Weeks since injury	Rehabilitation plan
0-1	Wear sling for comfort only. Take arm out of the sling and practise moving the elbow (see below). Exercise every hour in the daytime.
1-2	Your elbow needs another x-ray. Contact us as detailed above for the results.
2-6	Unless you have been advised otherwise by the fracture care team you may start normal light activities with the arm and stop using the sling if comfort allows. Avoid lifting more than the weight of a cup of tea for six weeks. Continue with the exercises.
6 -12	The fracture should be united (healed) and you can do normal activity but be guided by any pain you get. You should be able to carry out day to day activities although arduous tasks may cause discomfort.

Smoking cessation

Medical evidence suggests that smoking prolongs fracture healing time. In extreme cases it can stop healing altogether. It is important that you consider this information with relation to your recent injury. Stopping smoking during the healing phase of your fracture will help ensure optimal recovery from this injury.

For advice on smoking cessation and local support available, please refer to the following website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk> or discuss this with your GP.

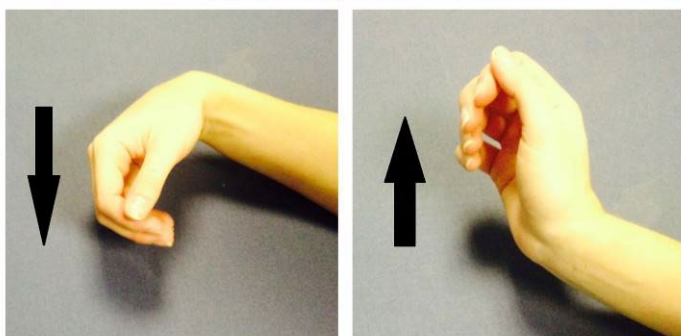


Initial Exercises to be done 5 - 6 times a day

Finger and wrist flexion and extension

Open and close your hand as shown 10-15 times.

Then move your wrist up and down 10-15 times.



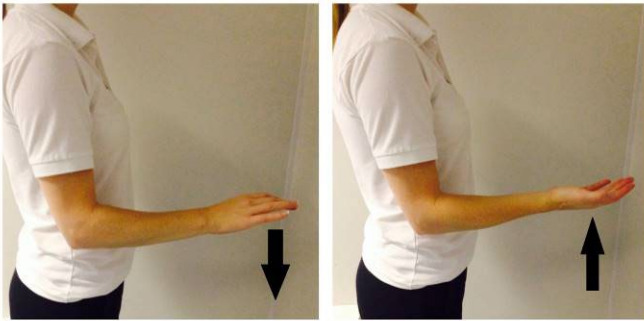
After a few days, hold a soft ball / ball of socks. Squeeze the ball as hard as possible without pain.

Hold for 5 seconds and repeat 10 times.



Elbow Bend to Straighten

Gently bend and straighten your elbow as far as you can without pain. You should not feel more than a mild to moderate stretch. You can use your other arm to assist if necessary. Repeat 10 - 15 times if there is no increase in pain.



Forearm Rotations

Begin this exercise with your elbow at your side and bent. Slowly turn your palm up and down as far as you can go without pain. You should not feel more than a mild to moderate stretch. You can use your other arm to assist if necessary.

Repeat 10 - 15 times if there is no increase in pain.

Sources of information

This information leaflet has been developed by the Fracture Care Team at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Fracture Care Team and adapted for use at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. Information updated during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that patients with injuries have information, support and care despite social distancing.

Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4784 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

We are committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4434 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse, practitioner or doctor.

Reference

Thank you to the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and to Kate Weatherly, Specialist Orthopaedic Physiotherapist for the first version.

This leaflet can be found at: www.esht.nhs.uk/leaflet/proximal-radius-fracture-requiring-further-x-ray/

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Mr Guy Selmon – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Prof Scarlett McNally - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Miss Miranda Champion - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Helen Harper-Smith – Professional Lead Physiotherapist
Hilary Kircher – Clinical / Operational Lead Outpatient Physiotherapist

The Clinical Specialty/Unit that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics

Next review date: May 2025

Responsible clinician/author: Helen Harper-Smith – Professional Lead Physiotherapist
Prof Scarlett McNally – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

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