

FRACTURES AND RELATED TERMS

LATIN	ENGLISH	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLE
General terms			
fractura, ae, f./fractura completa completus, a, um lateris dextri lateris sinistri lateris utriusque = bilateralis bilateralis, e bilateral, on both sides	fracture/complete fracture	complete break resulting in bone being separated into two or more pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fractura femoris/humeri/malleoli/rami ossis pubis.....</i> • <i>Fractura claviculae compl.</i> • <i>Fractura femoris l. dx./l. sin./l. utque(utr.)</i>
fractus, a, um annus, i, m. year ante annos years ago	broken	adj.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Digitus minimus pedis fractus</i> • <i>Ulna sinistra fracta ante annos</i>
Classification of fractures by the cause			
fractura traumatica traumaticus, a, um	traumatic fracture	caused by trauma, e. g. car accident	• <i>Fractura vertebrae thoracicae traumatica</i>
fractura pathologica/spontanea pathologicus, a, um spontaneus, a, um	pathological fracture spontaneous fracture	occurs on a weakened bone, and thus caused by some underlying disease, e. g. osteoporosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Osteoporosis cum fractura pathologica</i> • <i>Fractura colli femoris l. sin. spontanea</i>
Classification of fractures by severity of the injury to soft tissues surrounding the bone			
fractura aperta/complicata apertus, a, um complicatus, a, um	open/compound/complicated fracture	bone(s) protrude(s) through the skin	• <i>Fractura digiti V. (quinti)manus l. dx. aperta/complicata</i>
fractura clausa/simplex clausus, a, um simplex, cis	closed/simple/uncomplicated fracture	skin remains intact	• <i>Fractura tibiae clausa/simplex</i>
Classification of fractures by the number of fracture lines			
fractura simplex simplex, cis	simple fracture	one fracture line	• <i>Fractura simplex humeri</i>
fracturae multiplices multiplex, cis	multiple fractures	up to six fracture lines/bone pieces	• <i>Fracturae costarum l. dx. multipl.</i>
fractura comminutiva comminutivus, a, um	comminuted fracture	the bone is splintered or crushed into numerous (> 6) pieces	• <i>Fract. capitis mandibulae l. sin. comminutiva</i>
Classification by the contour of the fracture line			
fractura transversa transversus, a, um	transverse fracture	fracture line is straight across the bone	• <i>Fractura femoris l. dx. transversa</i>

fractura obliqua obliquus, a, um	oblique fracture	slanted fracture line	• <i>Fractura diaphysis (diaphyseos) humeri dx. obliqua</i>
fractura spiralis spiralis, e	spiral fracture	fracture line spirals down the bone	• <i>Fractura spiralis tibiae l. sin.</i>
fractura longitudinalis longitudinalis, e	linear fracture	fracture line runs parallel to the long axis of the bone	• <i>Fractura longitudinalis tibiae l. dx.</i>
fractura compressiva compressivus, a, um	compression fracture	bone (especially short bone) collapses	• <i>Fractura compressiva corporis vertebrae</i>
fractura impressiva impressivus, a, um	depressed fracture	bone is pushed in (esp. skull and shoulder blade fractures)	• <i>Fractura impressiva ossis frontalis l. sin.</i>
fractura incuneata	overriding fracture	bone fragments overlap one another	• <i>Fractura femoris incuneata</i>
Classification of fractures by the level of bone defect			
infractio, onis, f./fractura partialis/fractura incompleta incompletus, a, um partialis, e	partial breakage, partial/incomplete fracture	partial breakage of bone, sometimes called a greenstick fracture	• <i>Infractio sterni</i> • <i>Fractura radice dentis permanentis incompl.</i>
fractura xxx sine dislocatione dislocatio, onis, f. displacement	no displacement (of bone fragments)	no abnormal position of bone fragments	• <i>Fractura calcanei l. dx. sine disloc.</i>
fractura xxx cum dislocatione	displacement (of bone fragments)	abnormal position of bone fragments	• <i>Fractura humeri l. sin. cum disloc.</i>
fractura xxx cum dislocatione ad axim axis, is, m.	displacement (of bone fragments) with angulation		
fractura xxx cum dislocatione ad latus latus, eris, n.	lateral displacement (of bone fragments)		
fractura xxx cum dislocatione ad longitudinem cum 1. <i>distractio</i> 2. <i>contractio</i> 3. <i>implantatio</i> longitudo, dinis, f. length distractio, onis, f. distraction contractio, onis, f. contraction implantatio, onis, f. impaction	displacement (of bone fragments) in the length with 1. <i>distractio</i> 2. <i>contractio</i> 3. <i>impaction</i>	bone fragments are 1. moved away from each other 2. moved towards each other 3. driven into each other	