

# Give a Hand

When a fall or crushing blow causes hand trauma, the resultant injury may include fracture. Decipher these emergency radiographs to determine what needs attention.

**Match the fracture to the photo by letter**

a. Proximal fifth phalanx                      c. Scaphoid bone  
 b. Distal fourth metacarpal head            d. Styloid process of the radius



**1.** A 45-year-old construction worker accidentally fell 20 ft from scaffolding. He is unable to flex or extend his right wrist due to pain. Examination of the wrist shows a moderate amount of soft-tissue swelling with moderate tenderness along the base of the first metacarpal.



**2.** A 90-year-old man “just passed out” in his yard, landing in an ant nest. He experiences bilateral wrist pain, presumably from multiple ant bites. Both wrists are tender; range of motion causes tenderness. Inspection demonstrates mild to moderate circumferential swelling with several raised, reddened bumps.



**3.** The middorsal aspect of a 48-year-old woman’s right hand was accidentally caught in a metal door as it was being shut. Examination shows mild to moderate soft-tissue swelling and some early bruising. There is extreme tenderness over the fourth and fifth metacarpal bones. Although limited by swelling, she can flex her fingers somewhat.



**4.** A trauma patient arrives in your facility after a motor vehicle collision. His right hand and wrist appear to be moderately swollen, and he has been placed in a splint.

Answers to last month’s “Picture This” (*Clinician Reviews*. 2016;26[10]:23): 1d, 2c, 3b, 4a

For answers, see the next issue; for discussion, go to [www.medge.com/clinicianreviews/picture](http://www.medge.com/clinicianreviews/picture)