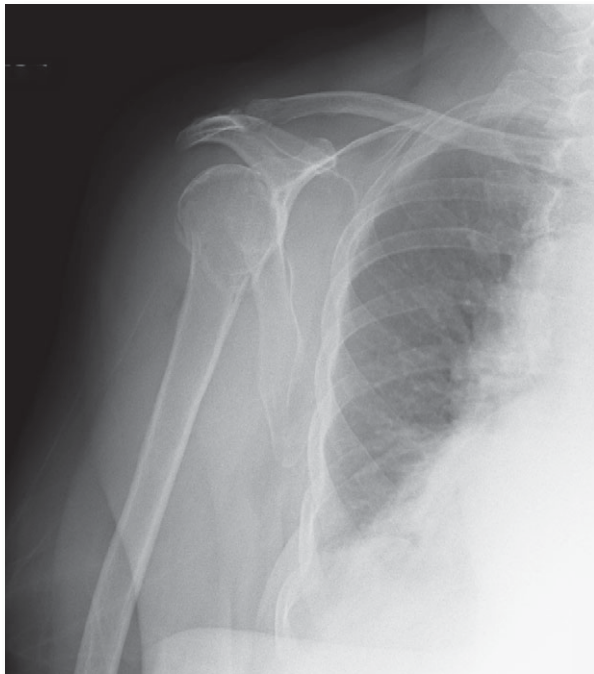
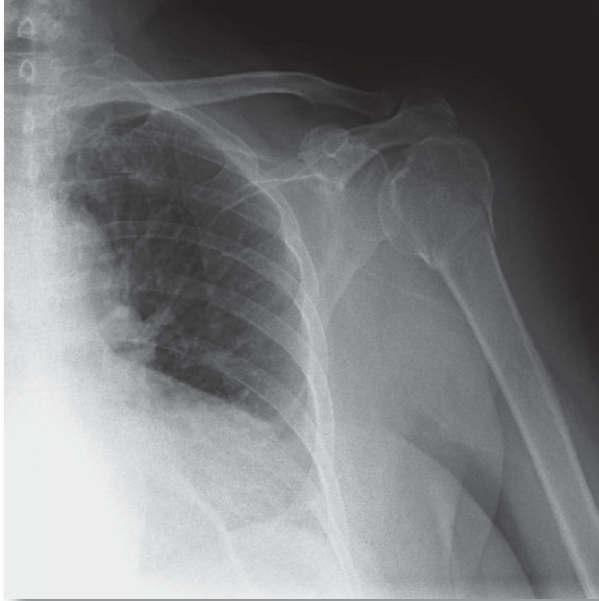


➤ RADIOLOGY QUIZ

By J. Michael Ray, MD, Ivette Guttman, MD,
and Brian L. Patterson, MD

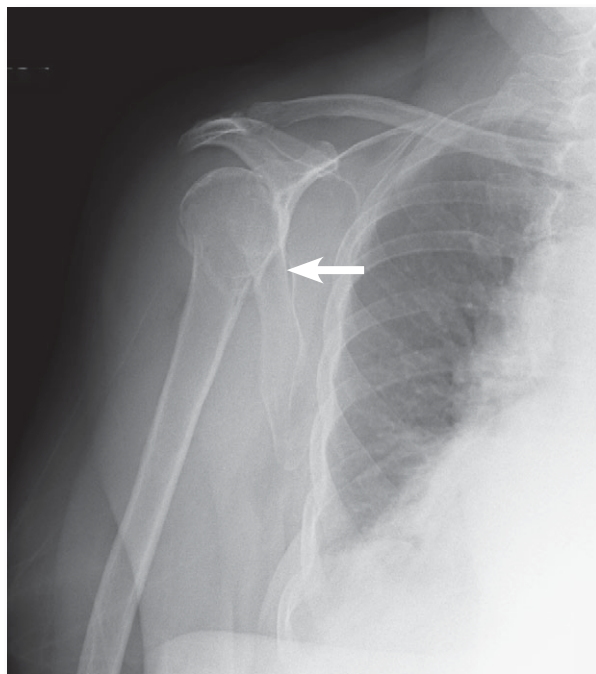
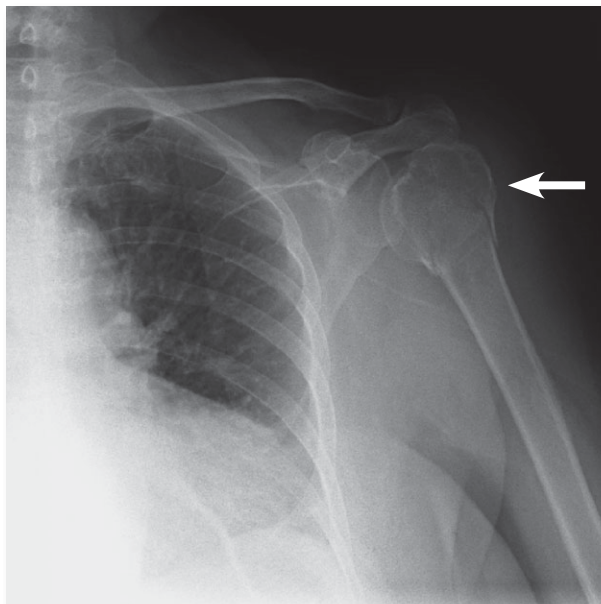
PROBLEM



➤ A 70-year-old woman presents to your urgent care center after tripping over a parking block and falling on her left shoulder. She describes severe pain in the shoulder that becomes more intense when she moves her arm. What is your interpretation of these views of her shoulder?

Turn page for answer ➤

ANSWER



➔ This patient has a comminuted fracture of the proximal humerus. Representing 4% to 5% of all fractures, these injuries most commonly occur in early adolescence or old age. They generally result from either a high-energy impact or an underlying pathologic bone condition and can be complicated by injury to the brachial plexus and axillary nerve. For this reason, a thorough neurovascular exam should be performed shortly after patient presentation. Proper management of proximal humerus fractures that are nondisplaced, like this patient's, or minimally displaced consists of a sling, pain medication, and referral to an orthopedic surgeon.

SUGGESTED READING

Skinner H: *Current Diagnosis and Treatment Orthopedics*, 4th ed, McGraw-Hill, 2006, p. 211.

Dr. Ray is the medical director and **Dr. Guttman** is director of clinical services at the National Training Center Sports Medicine Institute and Urgent Care in Clermont, Florida. **Dr. Patterson**, editor of "Radiology Quiz," is board certified in family practice and spinal cord injury medicine and currently works for the National Training Center Sports Medicine Institute and Urgent Care.