

# RADIOLOGY QUIZ

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## PROBLEM



➤ A 32-year-old woman presents to your urgent care center after falling on her right hand. She reports severe pain with swelling and decreased range of motion in her right elbow. Radiographs of the elbow are obtained.

**What is your diagnosis?**

Turn page for answer ➤

## ANSWER



➤ The radiograph reveals a closed nondisplaced fracture to the head of the right radius. Radial head fractures constitute 15% to 25% of all elbow fractures<sup>1</sup> and are commonly seen in the urgent care setting. They usually result from a fall on an outstretched arm. The force from the fall transmits through the radius, forcing the radial head against the capitellum of the distal humerus, resulting in fracture. Nondisplaced fractures of the radial head can be managed conservatively. For this patient, treatment consisted of rest, ice, narcotic analgesics, and temporary sling placement for the right arm. The patient was advised to begin range-of-motion exercises within 2 days of the injury.

### REFERENCE

1. Smith WR, Agudelo JF, Parekh AA, Shank JR. Musculoskeletal trauma surgery: fracture of the radial head. In: Skinner H, ed. *Current Diagnosis & Treatment in Orthopedics*. 4th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2006: 115-116.

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