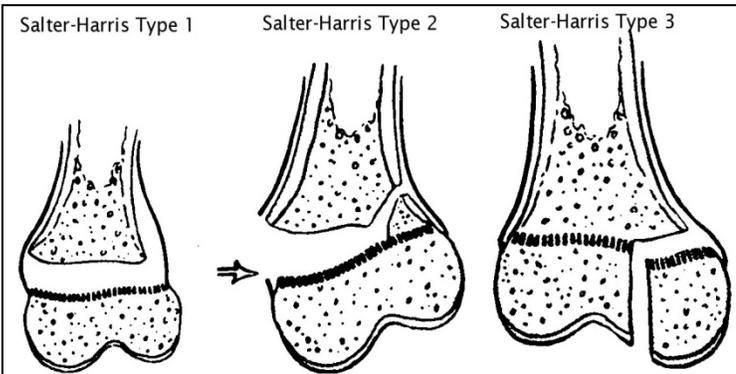


Children's wrist fractures are common in the summertime. They can be classified as physeal, torus or buckling, greenstick, and complete.



The most common **Physeal Fracture** separations are Salter-Harris Type I or II fractures.

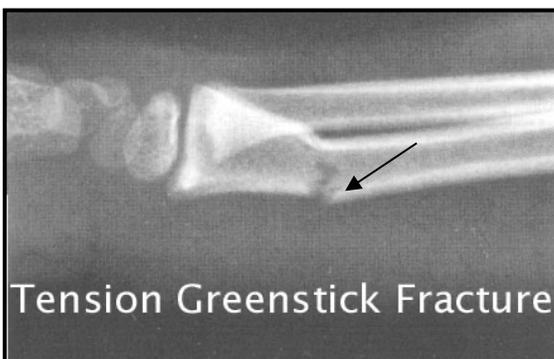
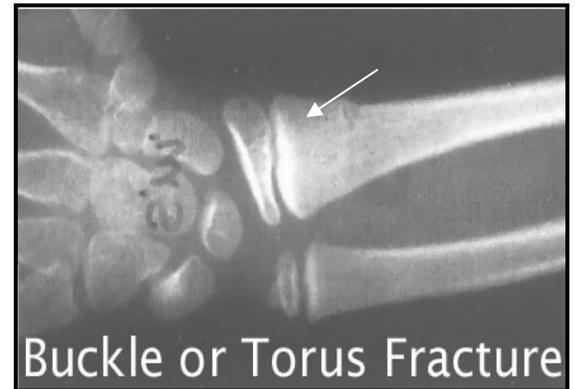
Type I fractures appear normal on X-ray and are diagnosed by a negative X-ray and tenderness on exam. Type I fractures may be splinted.

Type II & III fractures display a physeal injury, possibly with displacement, on X-ray. On exam, there is tenderness, more swelling and

possibly a visible deformity.

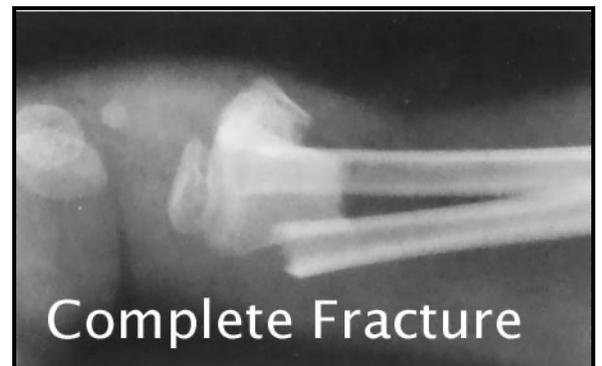
Type II & III fractures may require reduction and casting.

A **Buckle or Torus Fracture** is characterized by buckling of only one side of the bone with minimal or no angulation. These are stable fractures and may be splinted.



A **Greenstick Fracture** occurs when the cortex on the tension side breaks and cortex on the compression side plastically deforms. These fractures may ***not be stable*** and require casting and

close follow-up.



Complete fractures occur when both cortices are disrupted and displacement occurs. These fractures are **unstable** and require reduction and casting.

Splinting & Casting

Type I Salter-Harris and **Buckle/Torus Fractures** are very stable may be treated with removable splints molded to either side of the wrist. These splints are available through the Hand Therapy Division at The Hand Center of Waterbury. The specific treatment is developed from review of the X-rays and clinical exam. Greenstick fractures, displaced physeal (SH types II and above) and non-physeal complete fractures require casting and closer scrutiny.

If a child does not need to be placed in a cast, the splints below can be fabricated from a moldable plastic and can get wet. The specific activity level would be discussed with their orthopaedic surgeon.



If casts are required, a special material liner called Procell®, which is made by the Gore-tex company, can be used. It is a special order item that is an additional cost to the family.