

Elbow joint luxation

'Luxation of the elbow joint **accounts for one-fifth of all luxations and is very often associated with a fracture of the radial head, the coronoid process, or a fracture of the epicondyle. Luxation is always associated with lesion of the collateral ligaments and one should think of nerve injury'** (nervus medianus and nervus ulnaris).

Classification

1. Humeroulnar luxation'

- dorsal = posterior luxation
- dorsomedial (ulnar)
- dorsolateral (radial)

2. Radioulnar luxation'

- luxation of the radial head - usually occurs in combination with a fracture of the proximal part of the ulna.

Diagnostics

- anamnesis - circumstances and mechanism of luxation
- clinical examination - examination of joint stability, peripheral circulation and innervation (*n. medianus*, *n. ulnaris*)
- RTG - exclusion of luxation fracture

Therapies

- **conservative'** - closed repositioning under local anaesthesia
- **operative** - if repositioning is not possible, ligament reconstruction is usually performed at the same time

Complications

- nerve involvement - especially *n. ulnaris*
- vascular injuries
- compartment syndrome
- periarticular ossification
- limitation of joint mobility



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Links

Related articles

- Luxation
- Dislocation of Shoulder Joint

References

- SOSNA, A - VAVŘÍK, P - KRBEČ, M, et al. *Základy ortopedie*. 1. edition. Praha : Triton, 2001. 175 pp. ISBN 80-7254-202-8.
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