

# Fractures of the kneecap

The patella (lat. *patella*) is the largest **sesamoid** bone in the human body. Fractures of the patella are **intra-articular** fractures as they involve the femoropatellar joint.

## The mechanism of formation

Fractures of the patella are usually caused by a fall on a bent knee and are usually direct fractures. The patella is part of the extensor apparatus of the knee. The main extensor muscle of the knee is the quadriceps (lat. *m. quadriceps femoris*), which starts at the pelvis and the upper end of the femur and attaches to the tibial tuberosity (tuberositas tibiae).

## Division of fractures according to dislocation

- Non-dislocated
- dislocated (by pulling the tendon of the m. rectus femoris)

## Division of fractures by fracture line

- non-dislocated
- transverse
- fractures of the apex
- splinter
- vertical
- Osteochondral

## Links

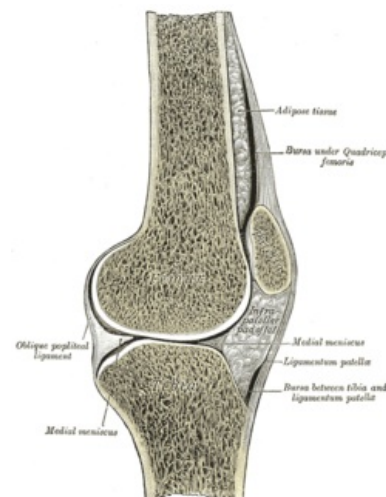
### Related articles

- The kneecap
- Knee joint
- Femur

### External links

- Zlomeniny pately - ortopedie (<http://www.ortopedie-traumatologie.cz/zlomeniny-cesky-pately%7C>)

### Used literature



Kneecap placement in the knee joint  
- sagittal incision with the right knee



Displaced fracture of the patella