J Radiol Clin Imaging 2020; 3 (1): 031-032 *DOI: 10.26502/jrci.2809020*

Clinical Image

Bennett's Fracture

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Received: 03 December 2019; **Accepted:** 21 January 2020; **Published:** 31 January 2020

Citation: Yasser Al-Obudi, Emre Pakdemirli, Nick Tessier. Bennett's Fracture. Journal of Radiology and Clinical Imaging 3 (2020): 031-032.

Clinical Image

A 38-year old female presented to the emergency department with acute bruising and swelling of the right hand after falling down the stairs. On physical examination of the right hand, bony tenderness was noted in the first, second and third metacarpals and over first carpometacarpal joint. No open fracture was noted. Anteroposterior, oblique and lateral views of the right hand confirmed a fracture through the base of the first metacarpal with carpometacarpal joint disruption (Panel A-C). This type of fracture is also called Bennett fracture; this can occur following a fall, typically when an axial force is applied to a partially flexed first metacarpal bone.

As this was an unstable fracture, it was reduced with traction and consequently fixed with a K-wire. Post-fixation plain film demonstrated good joint positioning. The patient was then regularly seen in the fracture clinic, with follow-up plain films that demonstrated a good unification of the fracture. The patient then underwent a course of physiotherapy to regain full function of the right hand.