

Preface

The staff in accident and emergency departments and doctors in fracture clinics alike may at times find themselves inadequately equipped to identify the exact type of a given fracture without access to a textbook.

Classification is an essential aid, which guides clinical judgement. It has been developed to facilitate organisation of seemingly distinct but related fractures into different clinically useful groups. Ideally, it provides a reliable language of communication guidelines for treatment, and allows reasonable progress to be drawn for a specific type of fracture. However, the “ideal” classification system that would fulfill these requirements does not exist. As a result, numerous classification systems are published for each fracture; some are more used in one geographical location than others.

This book makes no attempt to produce a comprehensive list of all classifications. Rather, it includes those practical systems which have proven helpful in everyday clinical practice to a majority of surgeons. This book aims to provide enough essential information to complete the major task of identification and analysis of fracture, which is the first step in treatment.

As other systems of classification evolve over time, the likelihood that the classifications in this book will continue to provide guidance for fracture care remains high. I accept responsibility for any shortcomings in this book and corrections will be gladly made in the next edition.

Seyed Behrooz Mostofi
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