

Pediatric skull fractures

The skull holds and protects our brain

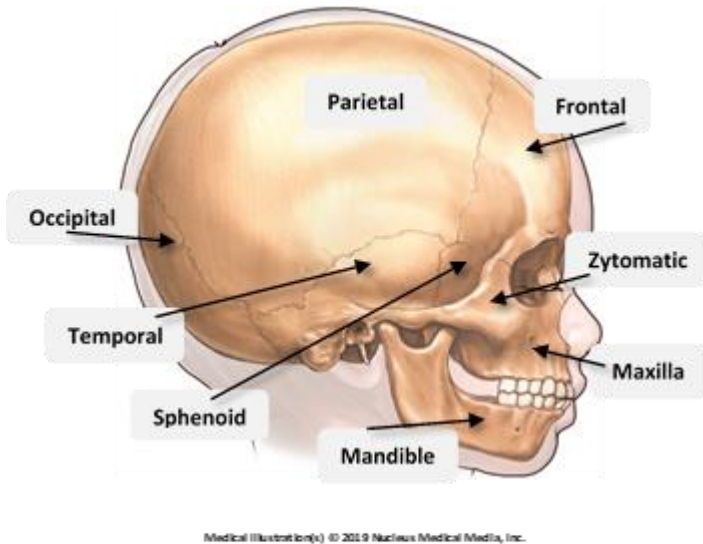


Diagram of pediatric skull

Types of skull fractures

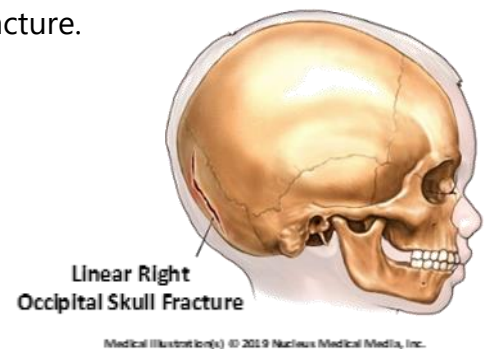
1. Linear: Most common type of fractures in children. Can be one or more cracks in the skull.
2. Comminuted: Multiple connected linear fractures.
3. Depressed: Skull is pushed inward and can cause trauma inside the skull.
4. Open: Bone breaks through the skin.
5. Basilar: Fractures that appear at the skull's base near the eyes, ears, and nose.



Every child is different. It may take your child longer to heal than another child. It is always important to call the clinic if you have any questions or concerns.

Diagnosing a skull fracture

The medical team may order an X-ray or CT scan. Both scans can find a fracture. Sometimes another scan is needed to figure out the injury behind the fracture.



Linear Fracture

Treatment of skull fractures

Generally, skull fractures will not need any type of special treatment. Linear skull fractures heal on their own and do not require treatment from the surgery team.

Basilar skull fractures with a leak from the nose or ears, will require special treatment. It is important for your child to be hospitalized and monitored until the leak is gone.

Follow up care

Swelling around the fracture is common in children. It often peaks 3 to 7 days after the injury. It may take 4 to 6 weeks for the swelling to go away.

The Neurosurgery team will limit your child's activity during recovery.



Keep your child from falling and hitting their head while healing.

Your child may have some discomfort following the fracture. Your team will usually recommend over-the-counter medicine for discomfort.

It is not necessary to repeat x-rays and CT scans for most children with skull fractures. Linear skull fractures heal over time and do not require repeat imaging.

Most children will recover without complications after a skull fracture. There is generally no long-term damage to the brain.

Neurology

For contacts or locations visit:

[cookchildrens.org/services/neurosciences/contact-us/](https://www.cookchildrens.org/services/neurosciences/contact-us/)



These instructions are only general guidelines. Your healthcare provider may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your healthcare provider.