

16 Bones

A Bones

Some common English names for bones:

English name	Anatomical name
skull	cranium
jaw bone	mandible
spine	vertebral column
breastbone	sternum
rib	costa
collarbone	clavicle
shoulder blade	scapula
thigh bone	femur
kneecap	patella
shinbone	tibia

B Fractures

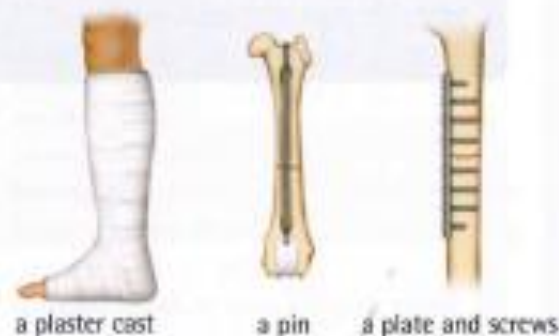
A fracture is a break in a bone. Some of the different types of fracture:



A pathological fracture is fracture in a diseased bone. A fatigue or stress fracture is due to repeated minor trauma, for example long-distance marching or running.

C Treatment of fractures

When the fragments of a broken bone heal and join together, they **unite**. Union may be **promoted**, or helped, by **reducing** the fracture – replacing the fragments in their anatomical position if they are displaced. After **reduction**, excessive movement of the broken bone is prevented by **fixation** – either external, for example a **splint** or **plaster of Paris cast**, or internal, for example a **pin** or a **plate and screws**. A displaced fracture which is not reduced may result in **malunion** – incomplete or incorrect union.



Note: The verb **reduce** has several meanings in medicine:

- to make smaller – *I think we'd better reduce the dose of your tablets.*
- (in surgery) to return to anatomical position – *A hernia can normally be reduced by manipulation.*
- (in chemistry) to remove oxygen or add hydrogen – *Nitric acid is a reducing agent.*