

# Everything about Supracondylar Humerus

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M.S. Ortho; DNB Ortho



BJ Wadia, Mumbai

Orthokids A'bad

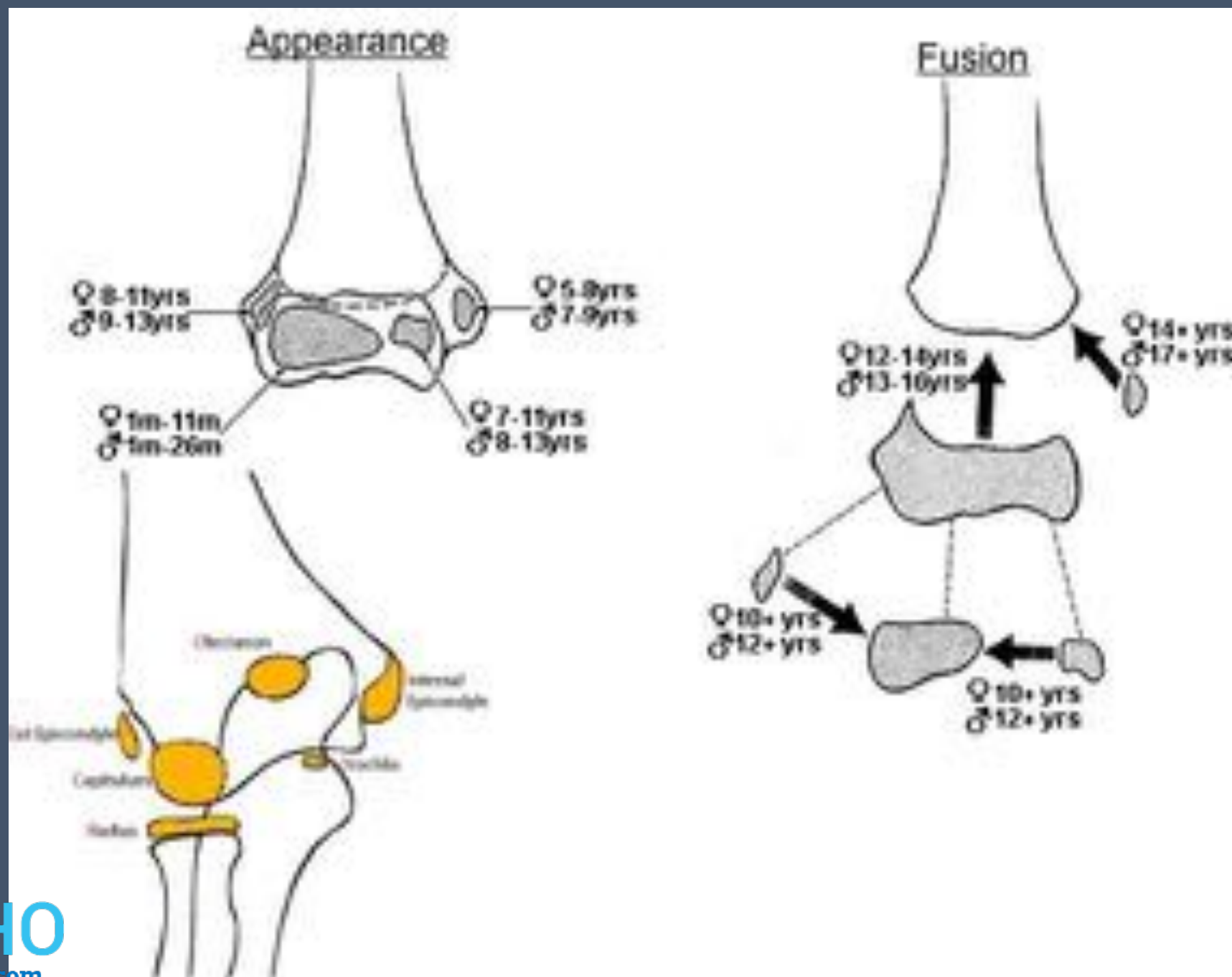


# SCH #

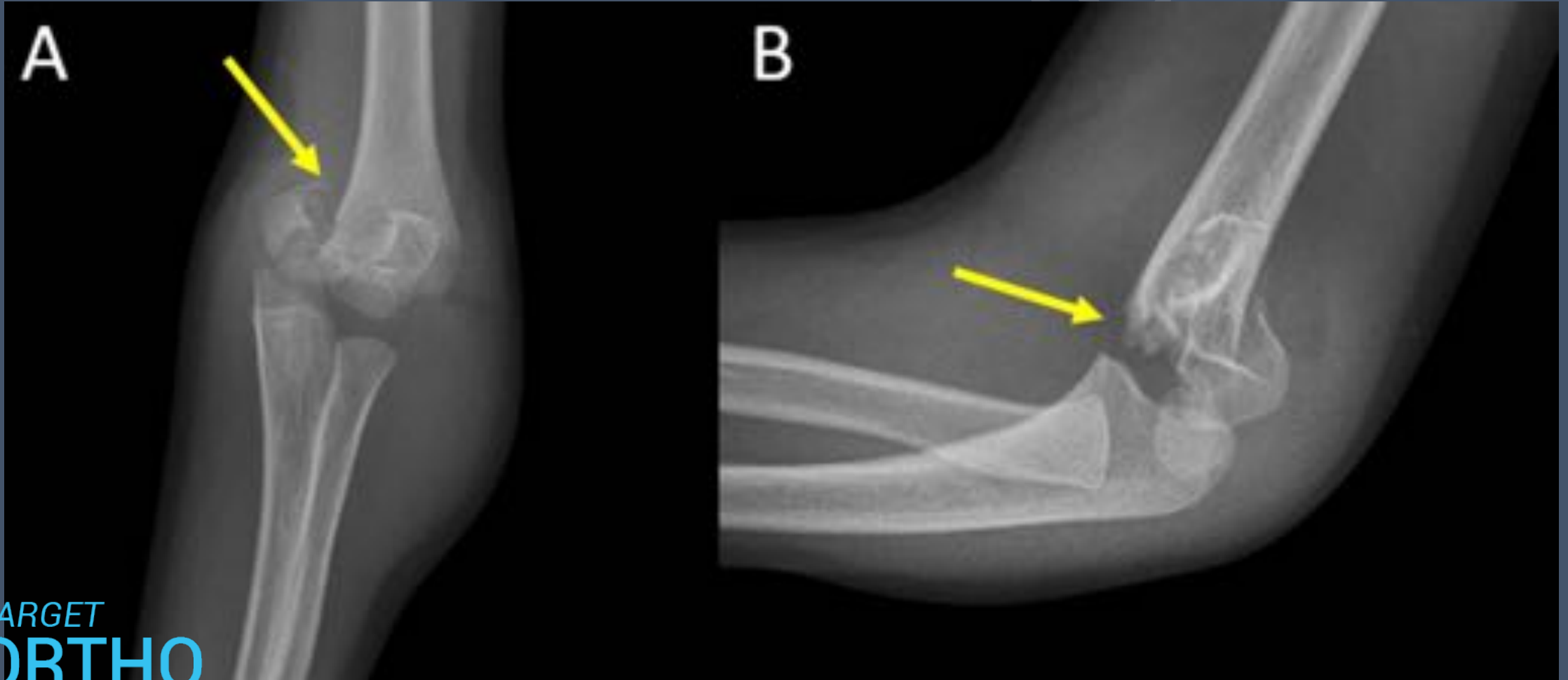
- Etiology
- Examination
- Radiology
- Classification
- Surgical Management

# INTRO

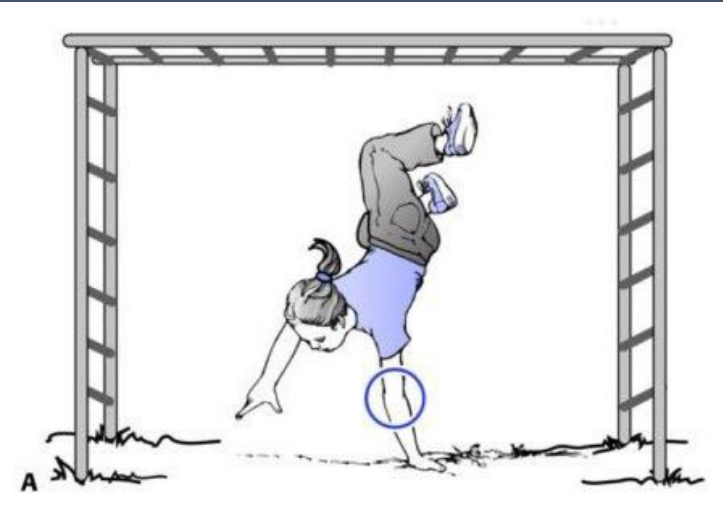
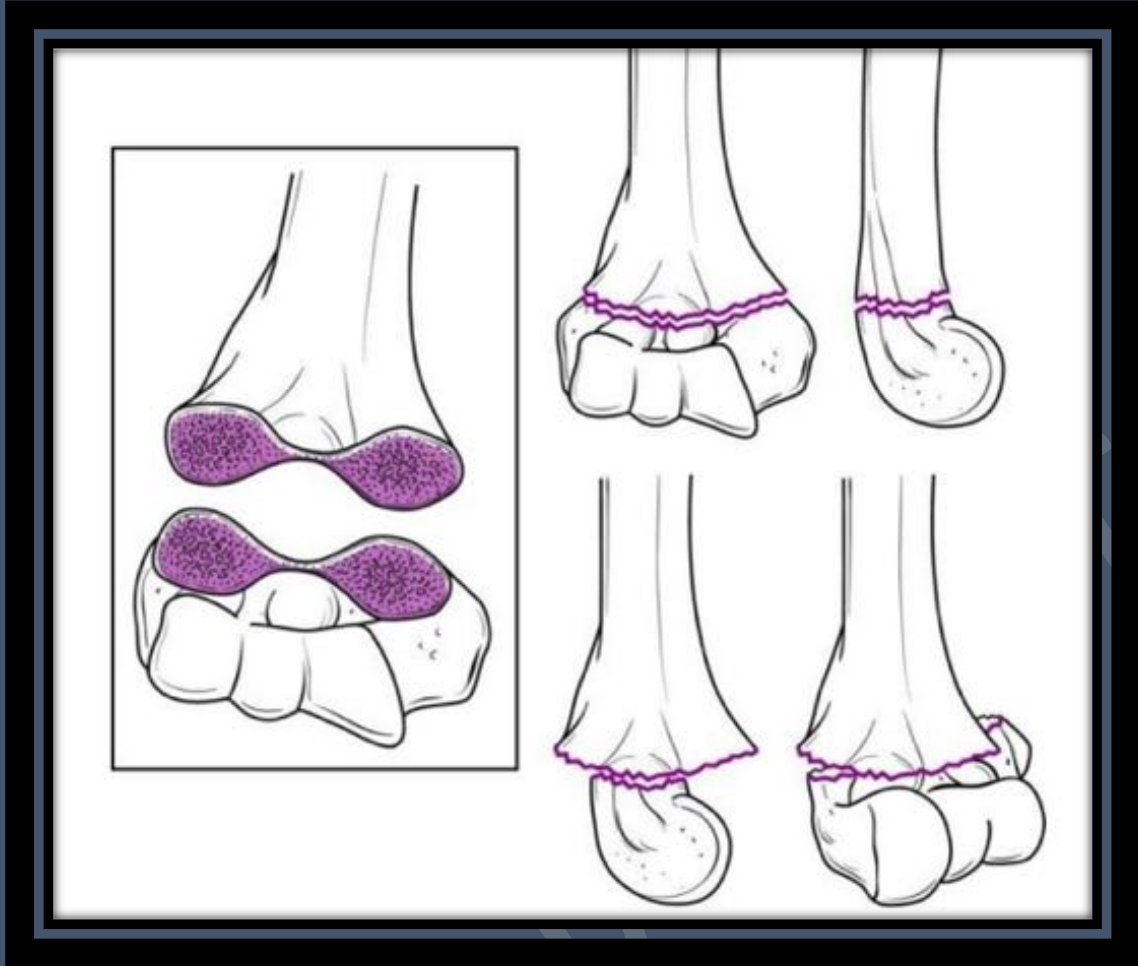
- 60% all elbow injuries
- 4-10 yrs age
- FOOSH
- Types – Extension 97% >>> Flexion 3-4%
- Acute – Nerve / vascular/compartment Syndrome
- Chronic – Malunion – Cubitus Varus ( GunStock)



## Question 2





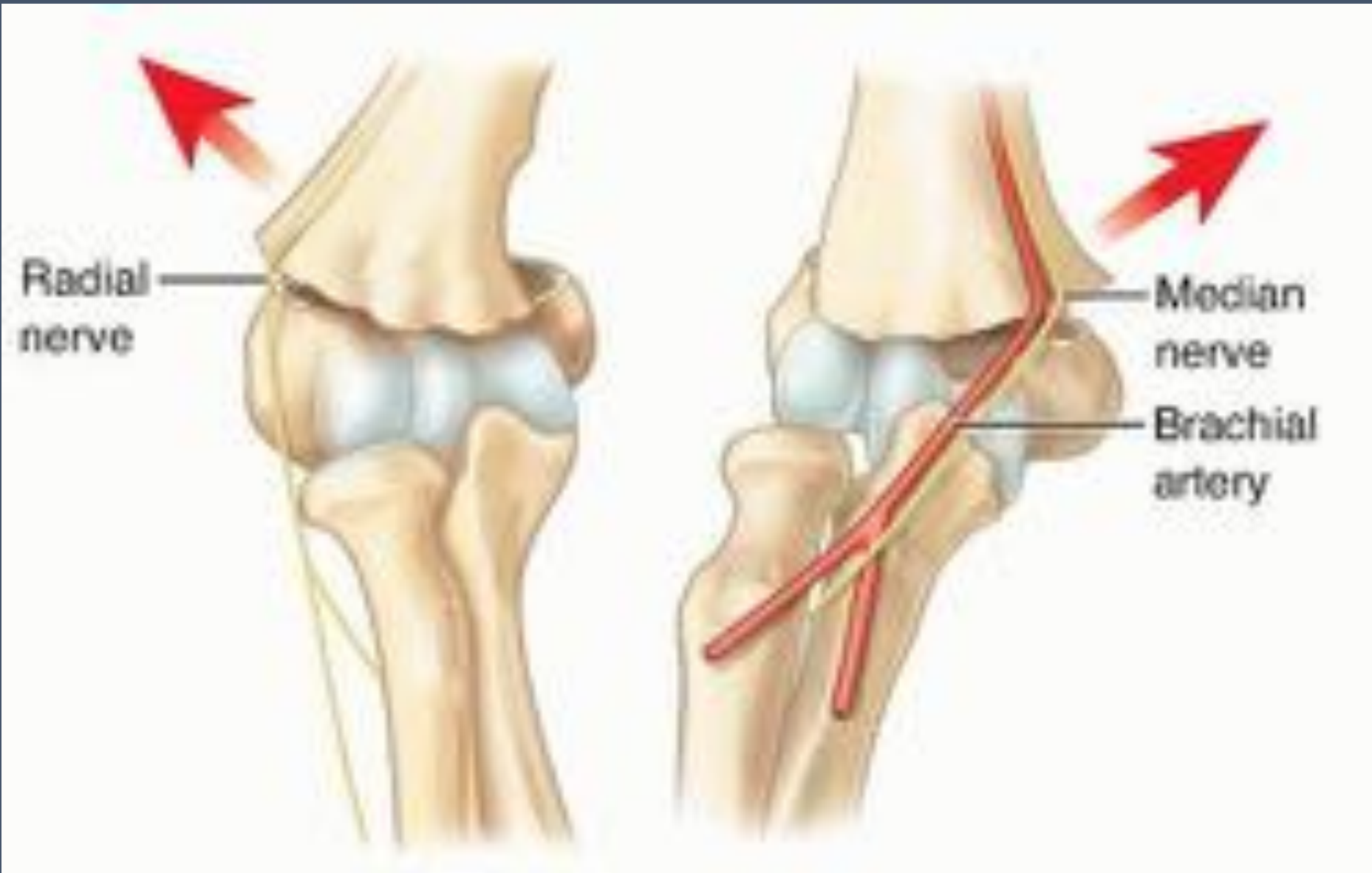


# Examinations

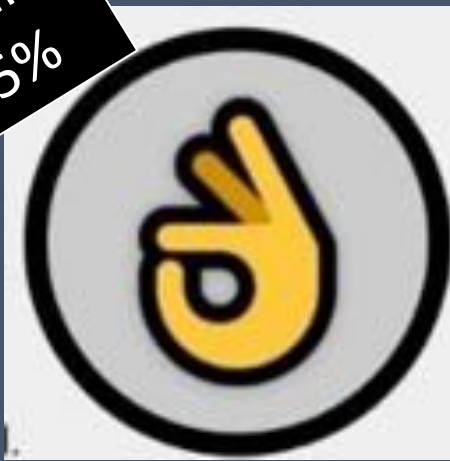
- GC, other injuries
- Swelling, CLW, abrasions
- **Distal radius** – m/c ipsilateral injuries with SCH fracture - **HIGH** risk of compartment syndrome.



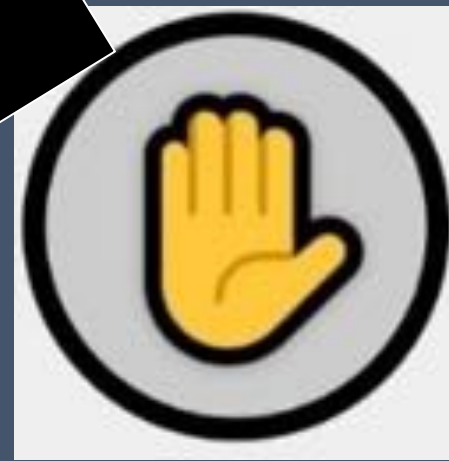




AIN Palsy  
12-15%



PIN Palsy  
8%

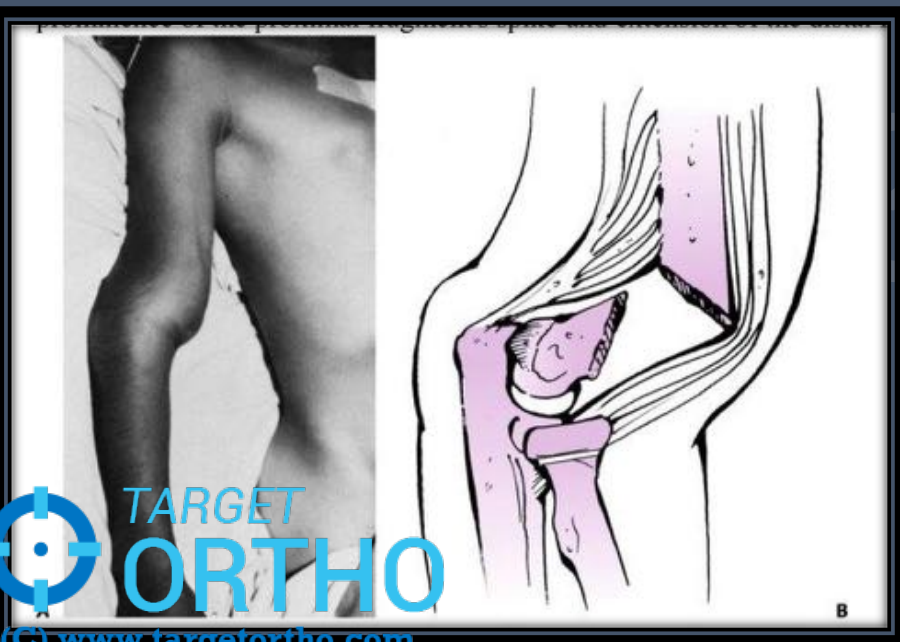
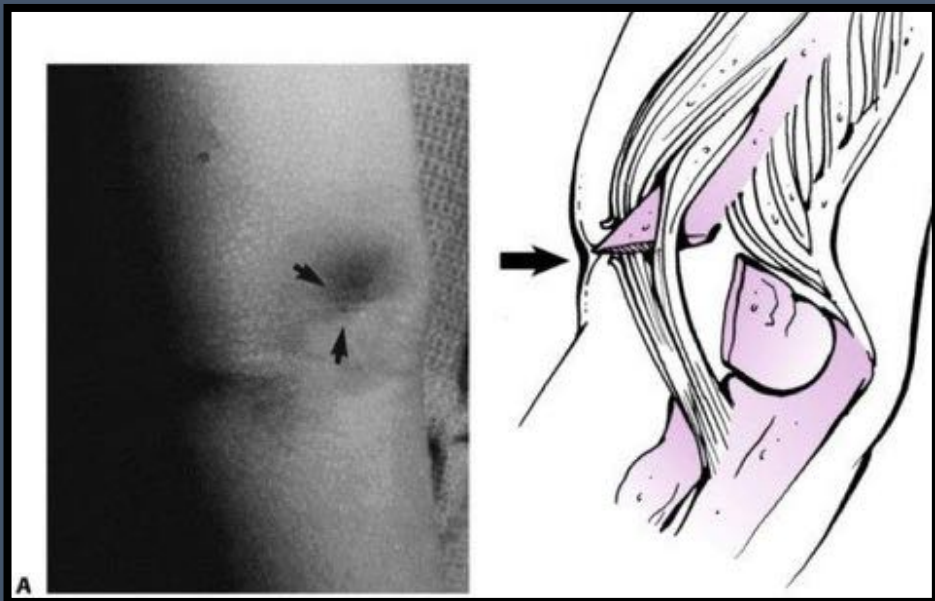


Ulnar Palsy  
3%









# Vascularity

- Distal Pulse / SpO2 Monitor
- Best indicator – Perfusion of hand Pulse – absent – injury/spasm
- Ischemic limb-forearm pain, loss of motor function, passive stretch pain, paraesthesia.
- SCH with pale/white hand – surgical emergency

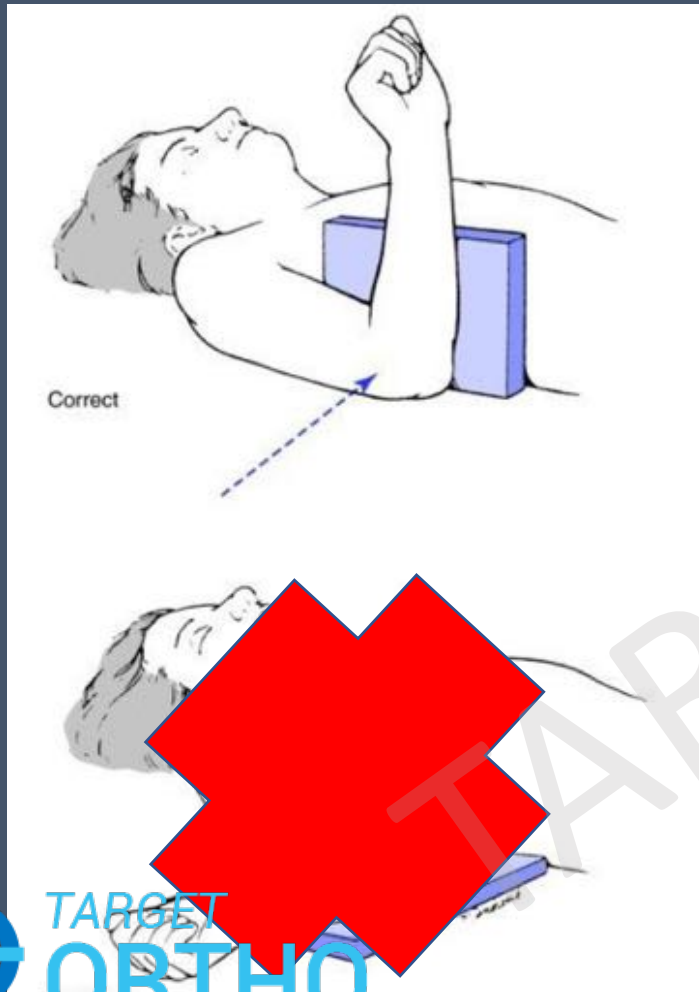


# Radiology

- **Fat pad** = occult fracture
- **Look for**  
Evidence of fracture/  
degree of comminution/  
intra-articular extension.
- **Anterior Humeral Line** –  
intersects- mid third capitellum in >4yrs, but may lie – anterior third in <4years.
- Always – take entire Humerus and forearm views – full length



# Position of taking xrays :-



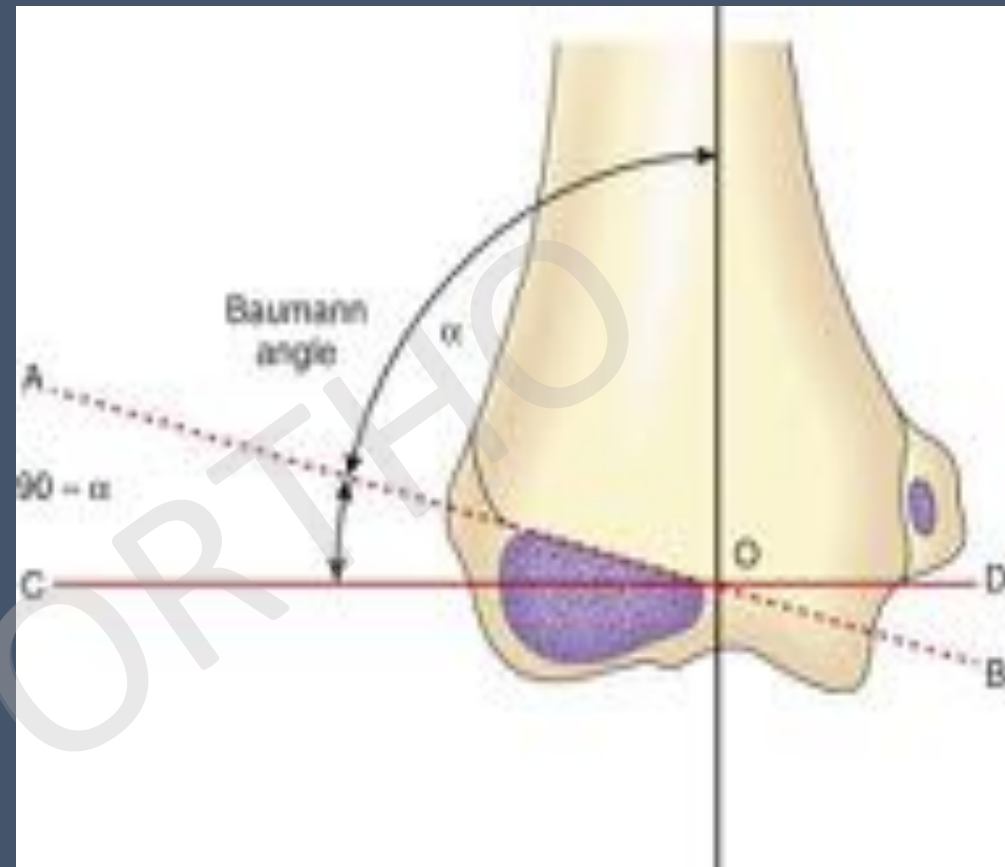
# Radiographic evaluation

- AP View

- Baumann Angle
- Metadiaphyseal angle
- Humeroulnar angle (Carrying angle)

- Lateral View

- Anterior humeral line
- Teardrop
- Crescent sign
- Shaft condylar angle



## BAUMANN ANGLE – 64-82

- Medial column collapse
- To evaluate the quality of reduction.

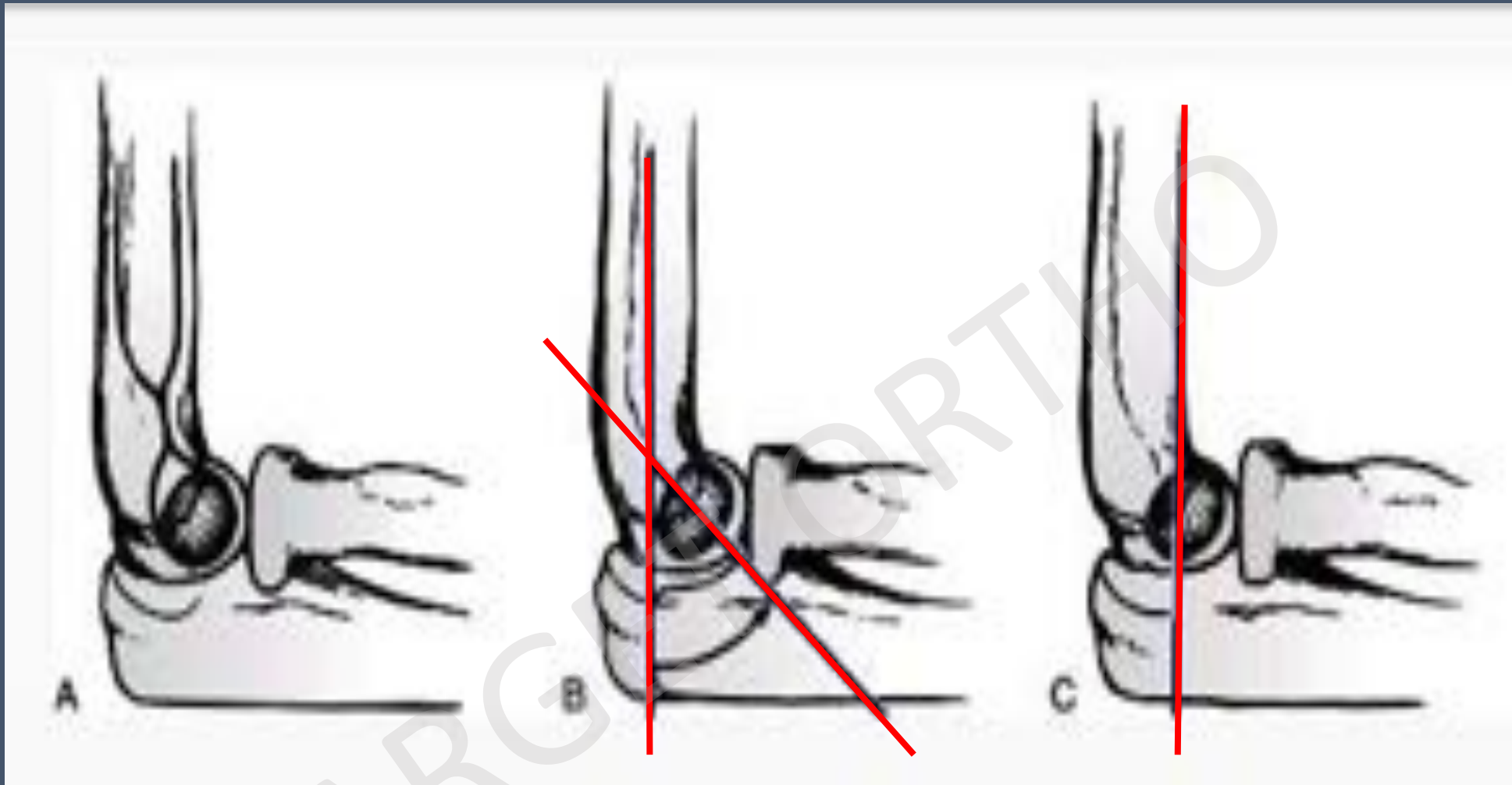
*Every 5° change in this angle causes change of 2° of carrying angle*

Humeroulnar angle  
(Carrying angle)



Metadiaphyseal angle





Tear Drop

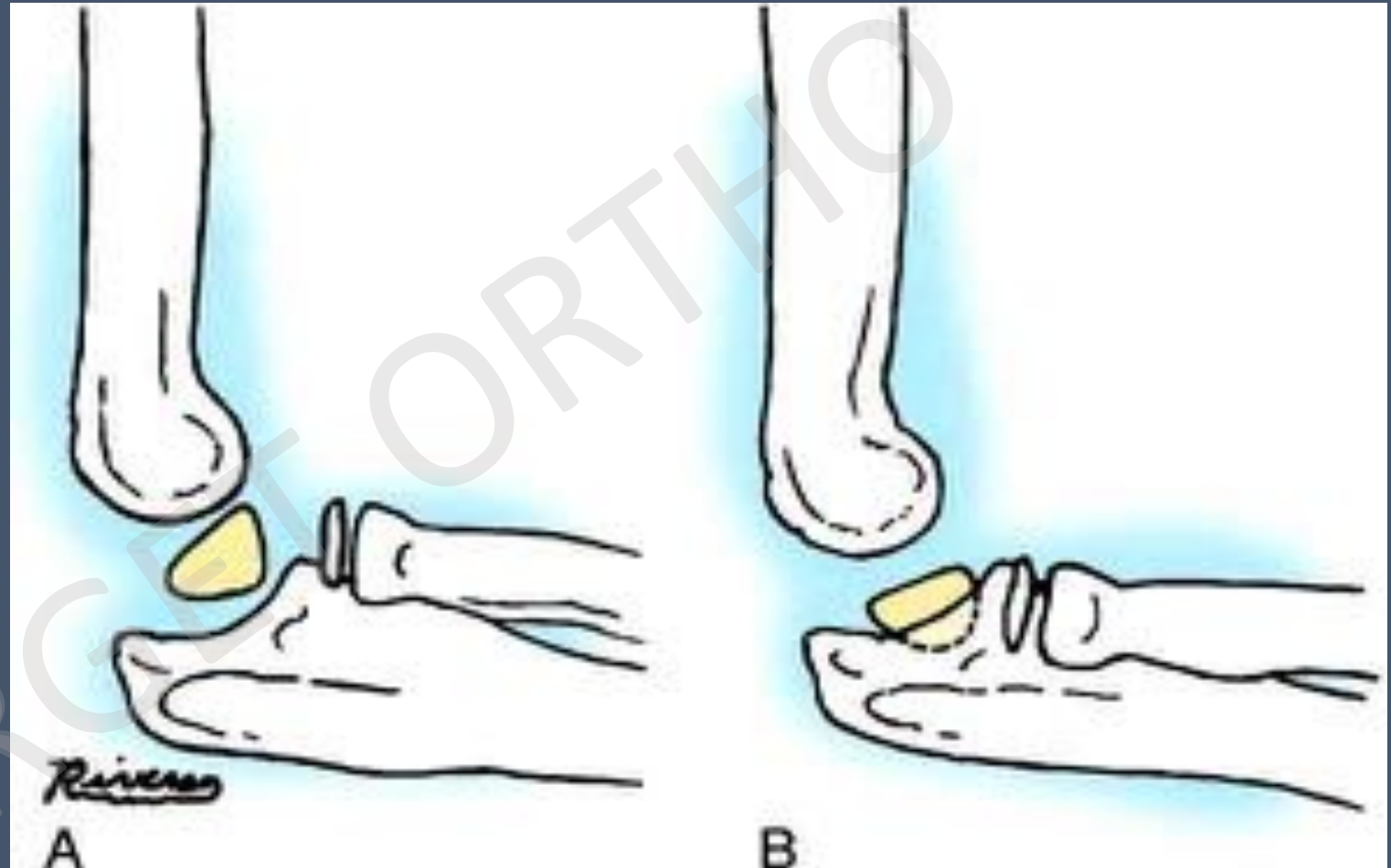
Shaft condylar  
angle  
N : 40\*

Anterior Humeral  
Line

# Crescent sign:

Radiolucent space between the distal humeral epiphysis and upper end of ulna.

In case of any tilt the part of ulna overlies the distal humeral epiphysis and creates a 'crescent sign'.



Suggestive of **Cubitus Varus**



# Classification – fracture

- GARTLAND
- Type 1 – non displaced
- Type 2 – intact post hinge
- Type 3 complete Displacement



# Type 1

- Post slab
- Cast



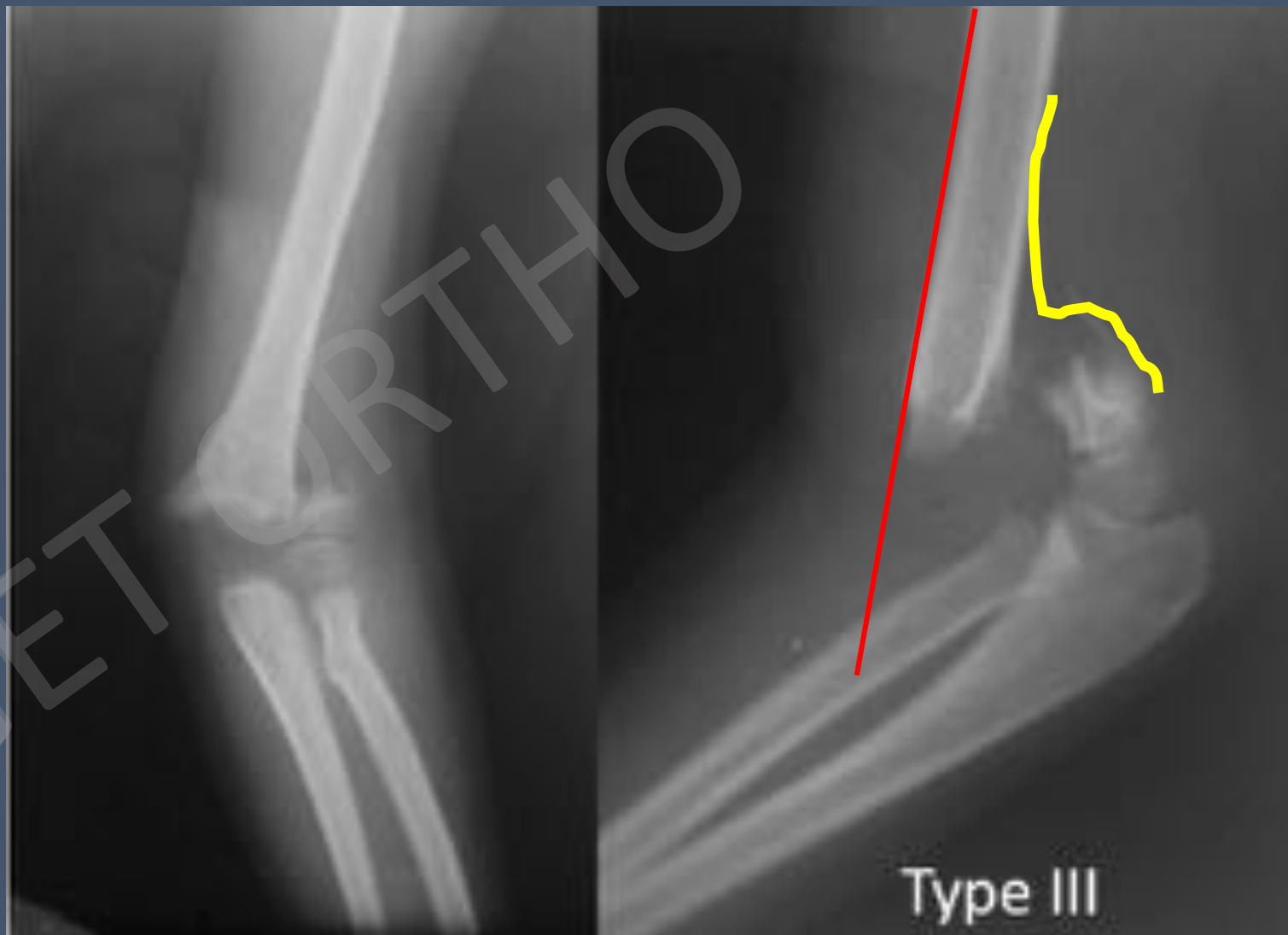
# Type 2

- 2A and 2B
- Gordon/ Griffet Index
- Type 2 – A and B
- Difference?



# Type 3

- CR and pinning
- Pin configuration



# Leitch – TYPE 4 – Unstable in Flexion and Extension (Trauma or iatrogenic )

Global instability



# De Boaeck – Comminuted medial column unstable – cubitus varus

\*





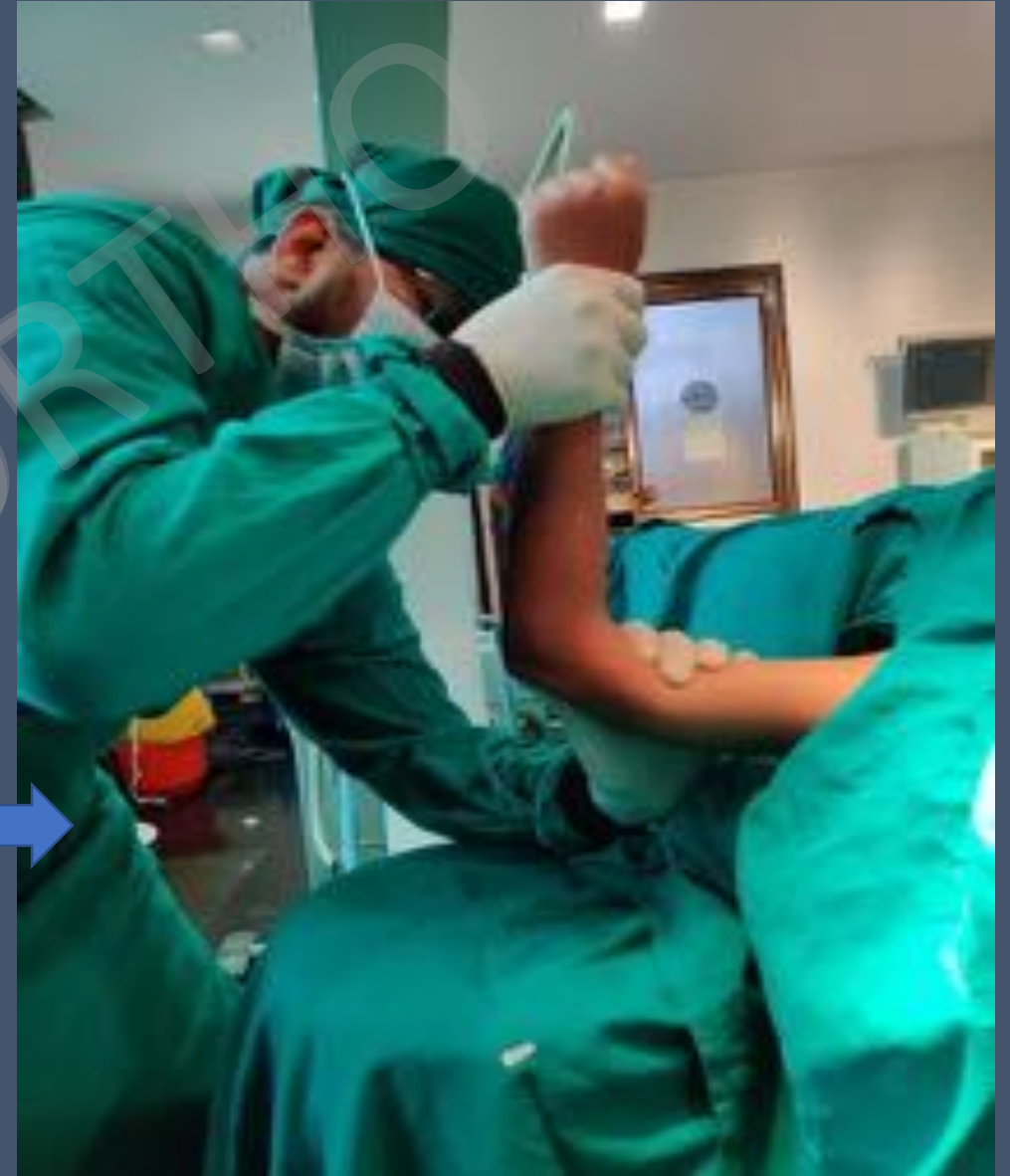


Figure 13-30 Laterally torn periosteum in a posteromedially displaced supracondylar humerus fracture.

(From Skaggs DL. Closed reduction and pinning of supracondylar humerus fractures. In: Tolo VT, Skaggs DL, eds. Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery: Pediatrics. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2007 .)

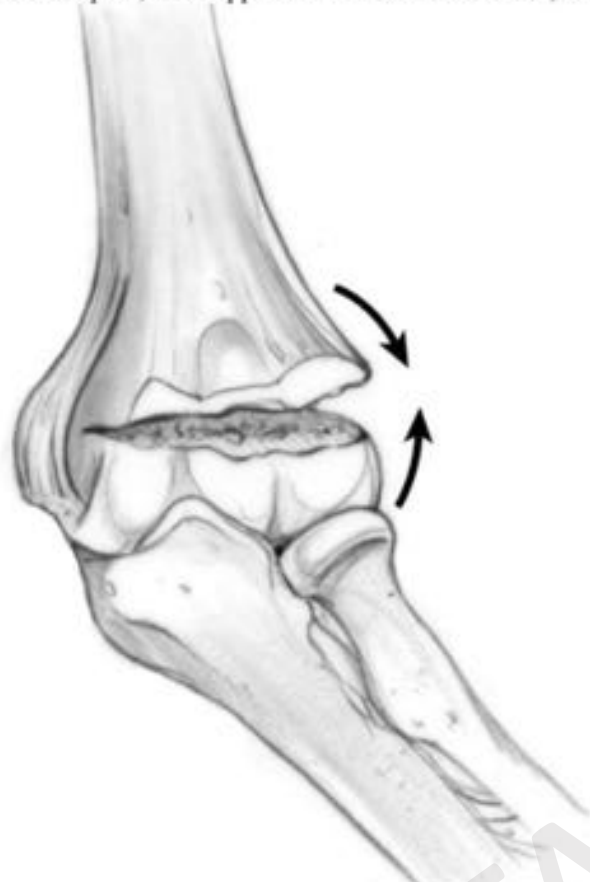


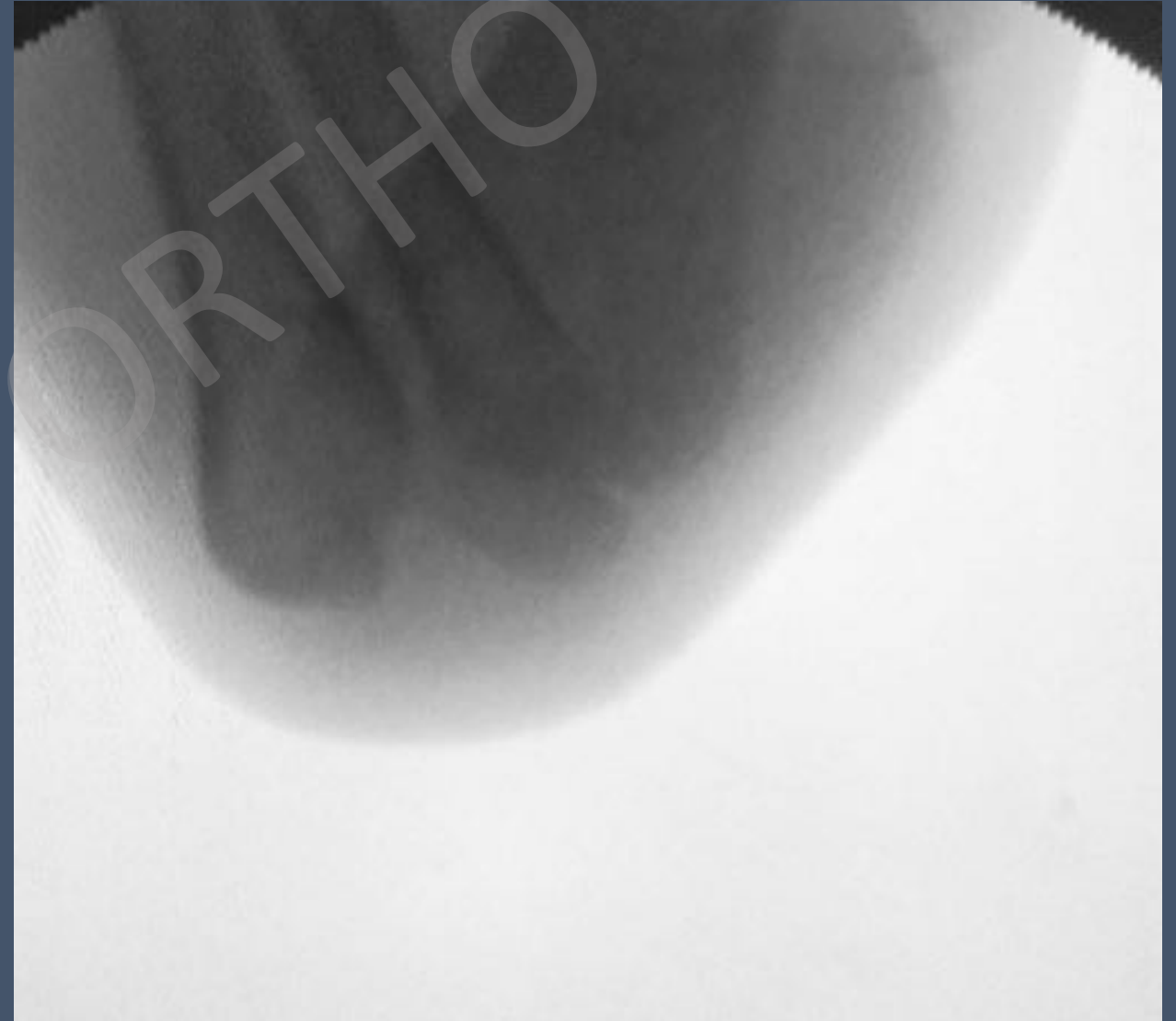
TABLE 13-3 Forearm Rotation to Aid in Reduction as a Function of Direction of Fracture Displacement

Displacement	Periosteum Is Torn	Forearm Rotation to Aid in Reduction
Posterior medial	Lateral	Pronation
Posterior lateral	Medial	Supination





Column Views: M- Ex : **M**edial Column; **E**xternal rotation



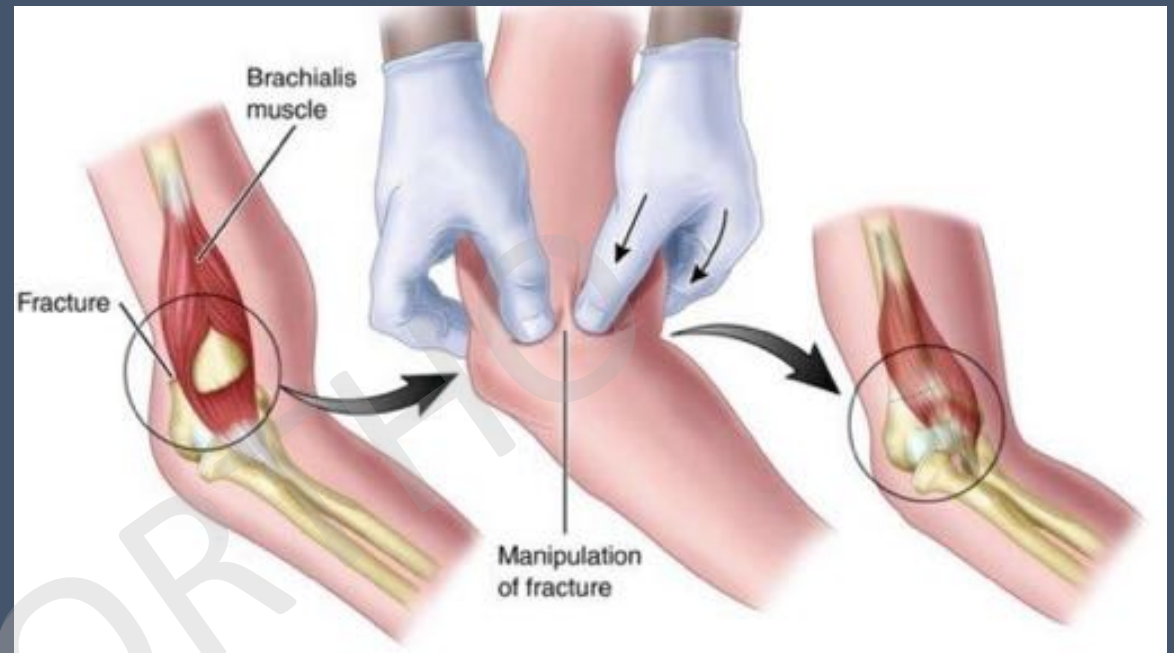
Column Views: L- IN : **L**ateral Column; **I**nternal rotation



Puckered – anterior  
– Brachialis sign–  
Milking.

SOS – open  
anteriorly – stay  
lateral to biceps  
brachii tendon.

Brachialis Milking



Tansen Technique, Nepal







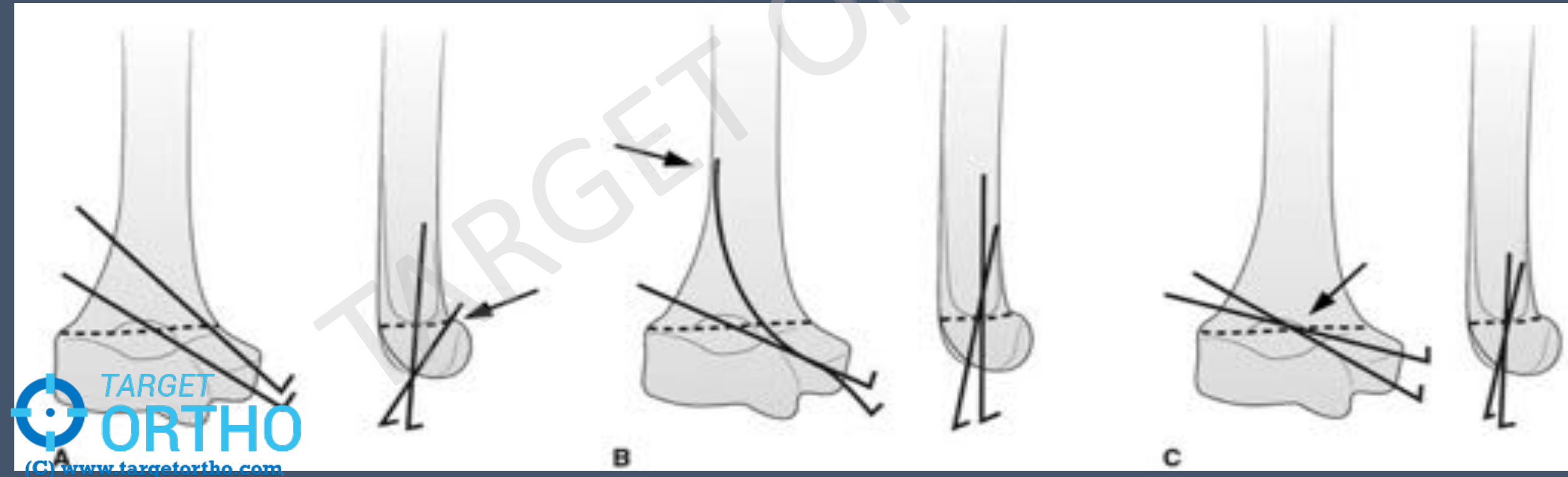
# PIN configuration

- Traditionally – cross
- 10% - ulnar nerve injuries - direct penetration/ stretching
- Some – anterior nerve subluxation



# Errors in lateral pinning :

- Atleast 2 cortices
- Pin separation, ( atleast 13mm/ one third width of humerus )
- Two 2mm pins > Three 1.5 mm pins

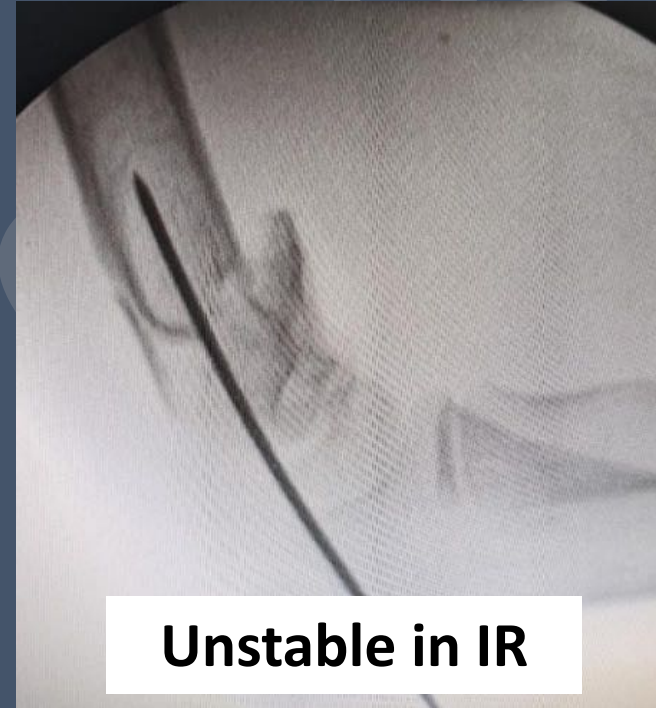




**Medial Oblique**



**Intercondylar**

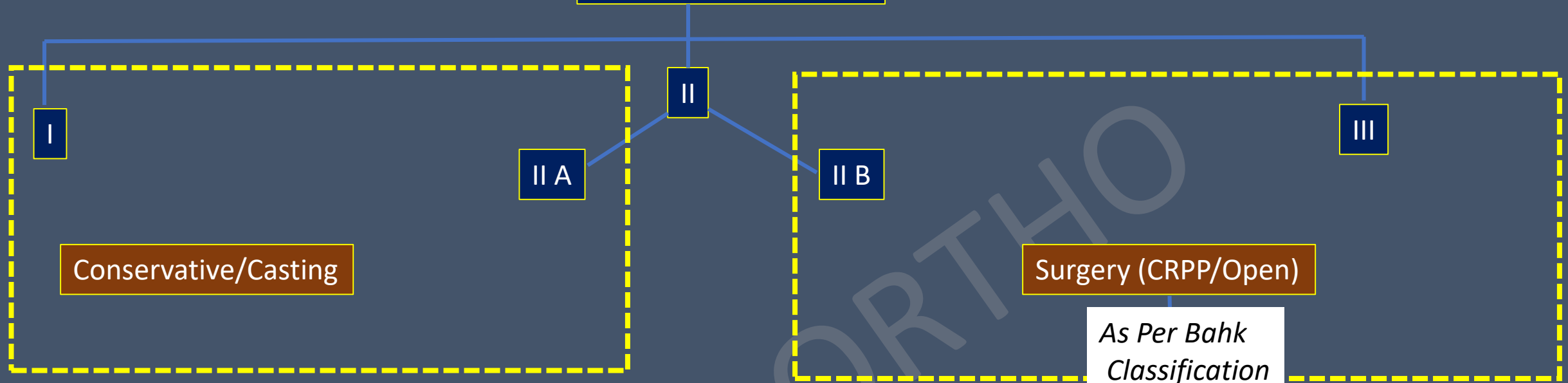


**Unstable in IR**



**High  
Supracondylar**

# Gartland Classification



Medial  
Oblique

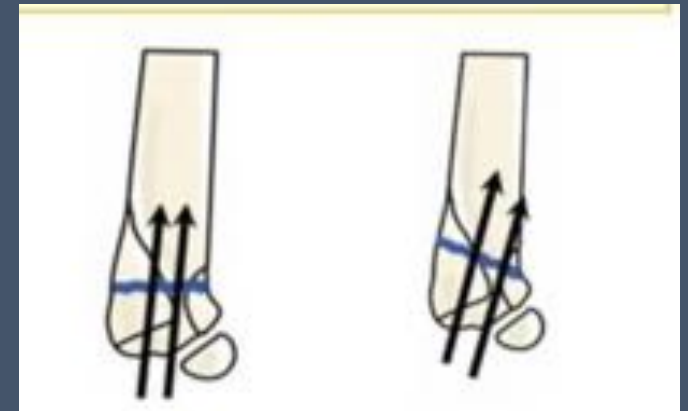
Lateral  
Oblique

Transverse

High

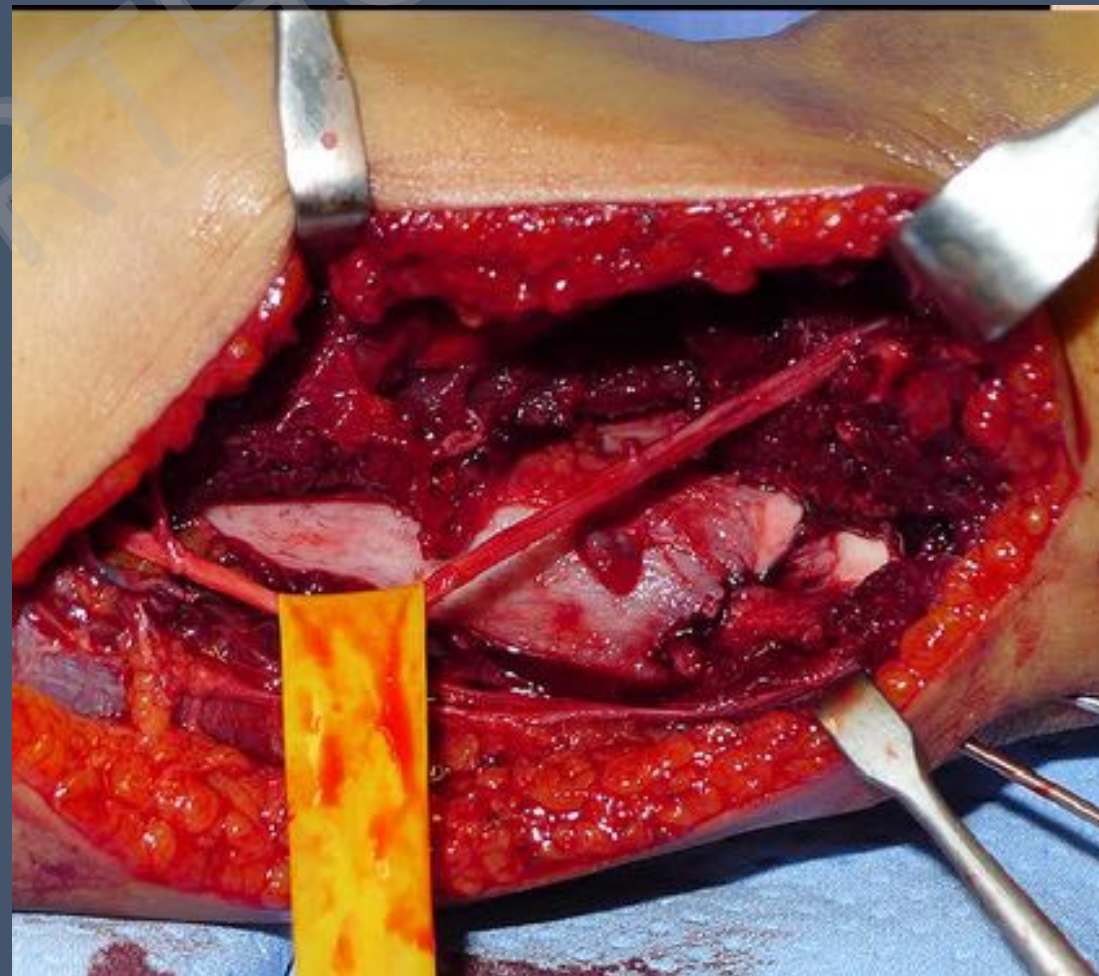
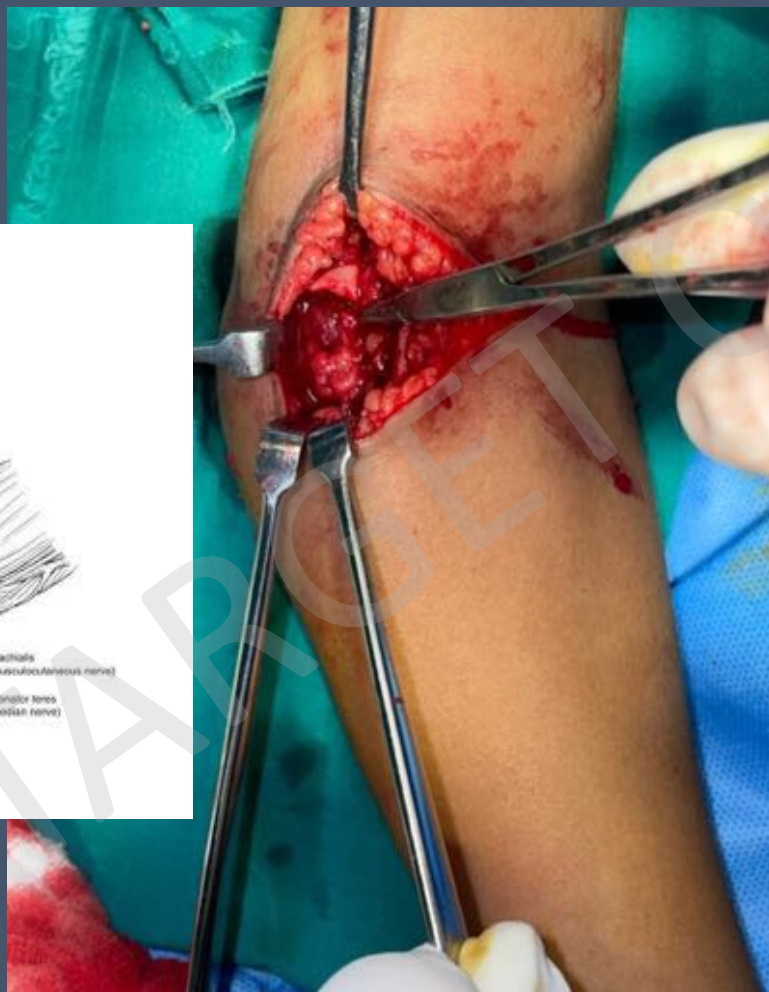
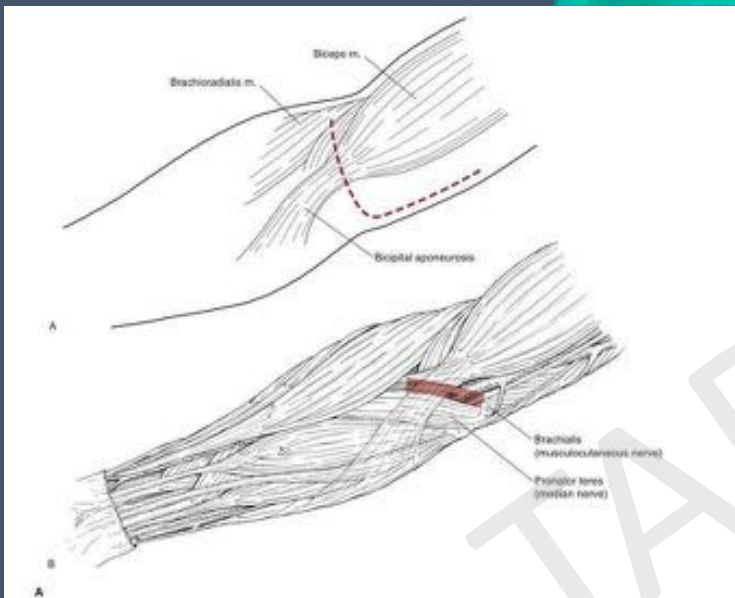
Low  
Saggital

High  
Saggital





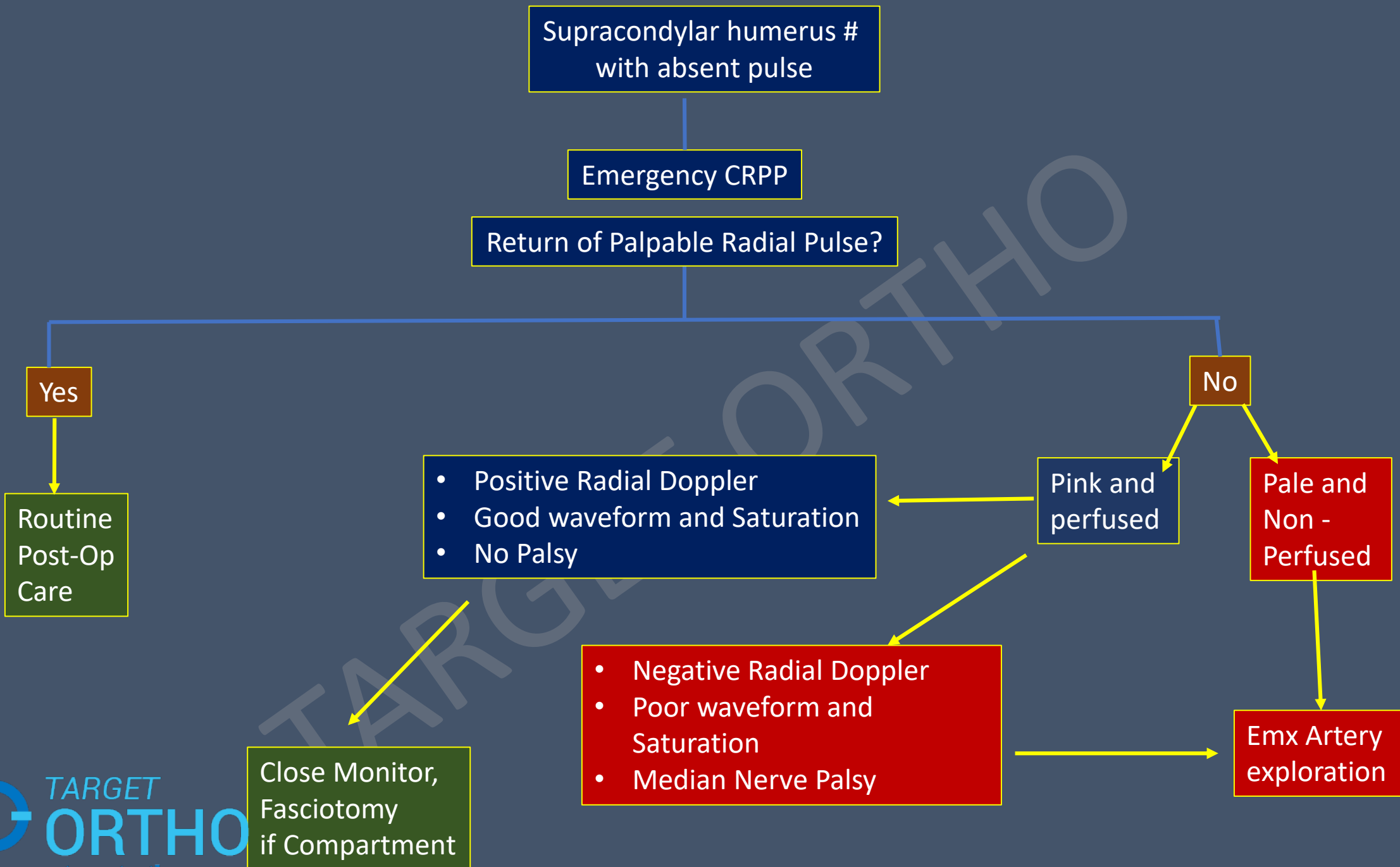
# Open Reduction



# PINK PULSELESS HAND

- Emergency surgery – Pink pulseless and dysvascular( pale ) SCH #
- Fracture – closed reduced – and pinned.
- 15-20 mins -In OT,
- Well perfused, Pulseless – arm splinted 40-60 \* flexion -Monitoring.
- If not restored – Immediate – exploration of vessel – direct repair/graft.
- Prophylactic fasciotomy done- reperfusion /prolonged ischemia.



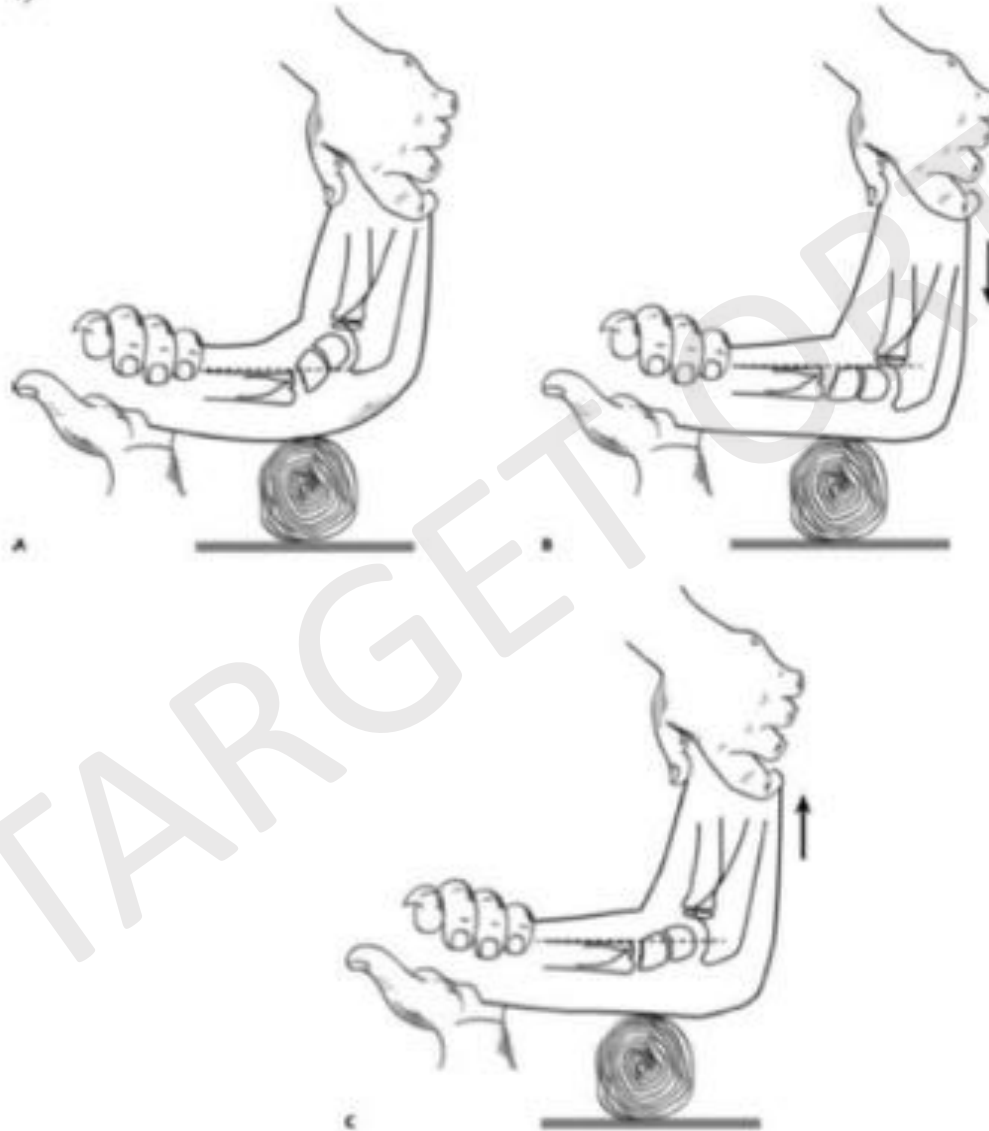




A: Prereduction with a rolled towel used as a fulcrum. B: Push with overreduction into extension. C: Pull back to align the anterior humeral line with the middle third of the capitellum.

(Reprinted with permission from Chukwunyerenna C, Orlik B, El-Hawary R, et al.

Treatment of flexion-type supracondylar fractures in children: the 'push-pull' method for closed reduction and percutaneous K-wire fixation. *J Pediatr Orthop B*. 2016;25(5):412–416 .)



# Timing of surgery –

Early Sx: Splint in ER, - next morning

Emx for : Open/skin tent/DNVS/Floating elbow/compartment

# Complications

Early

- **4.2 % Pin migration/ Pin tract infection**
- Ulnar Nerve symptoms (Sensory/ Motor)
- Compartment





# Complications

## Early

- 4.2 % Pin migration/ Pin tract infection
- **Ulnar Nerve symptoms (Sensory/ Motor)**
- Compartment



A



B



# Complications

## Intermediate

- Myositis
- Stiffness



# Complications

## Intermediate

- Myositis
- **Stiffness**



# Complications

Late

- **Cubitus Varus/ Valgus**
- Volkman ischaemic contracture



# Complications

Late

- Cubitus Varus/ Valgus
- **Volkman ischaemic contracture**



# Cubitus Varus

- How to assess
- When to operate
- What surgery
- Implants
- Complications to avoid

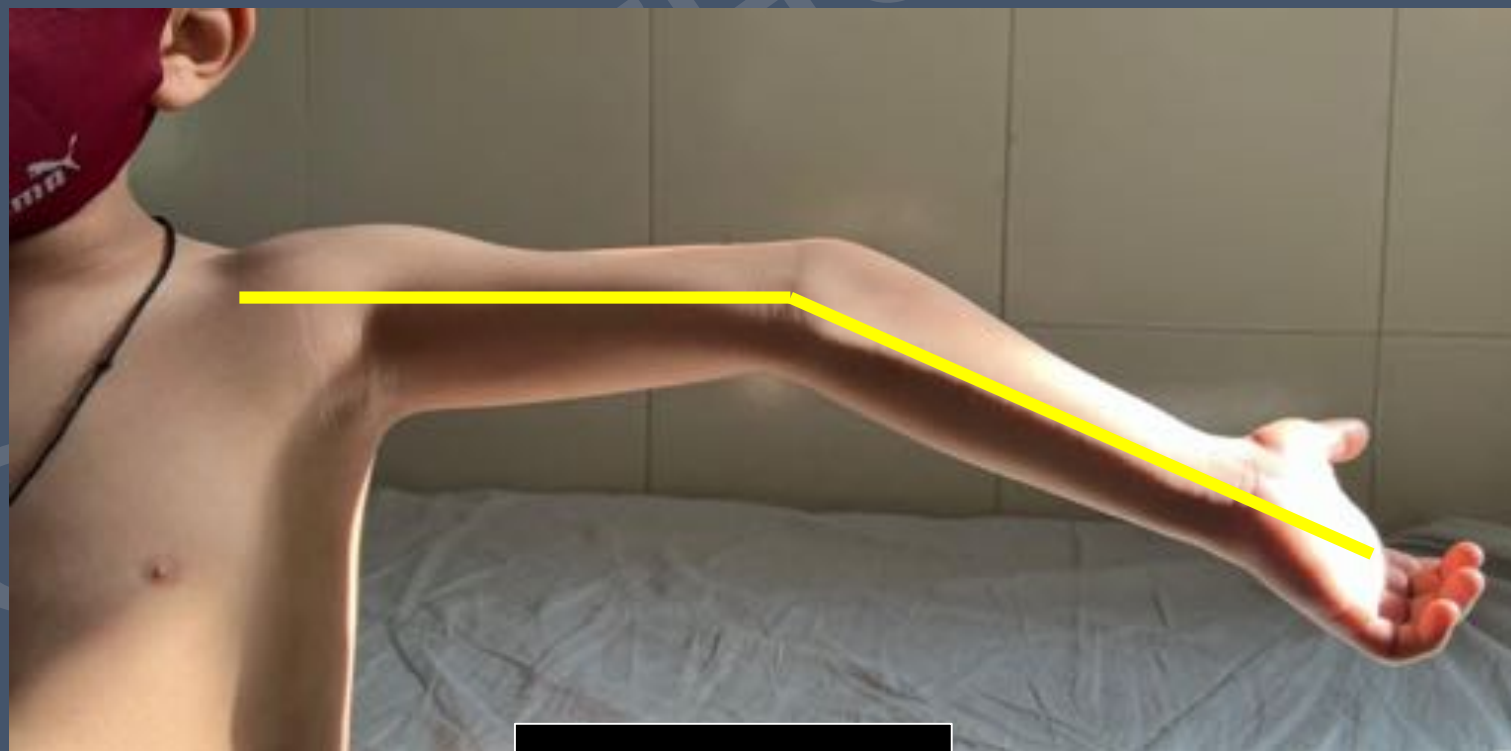


# Three Plane deformity Assessment



TARGET  
**ORTHO**  
Coronal Plane

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Sagittal Plane

Axial Plane



# Rotational malalignment

- Yamamoto Test
- Bhende Test (JBJS)

Elbow at 90 ° flexion and the shoulder held at the maximum extension position.

Apply maximum internal rotation to the subject's upper limb around the long axis of the humerus.

In children with the internal rotation deformity of cubitus varus, a certain abnormal angle is formed between the horizontal plane of the back and the midline of the forearm.

The angle is designated the internal rotation angle."

> Clin Orthop Relat Res. 1985 Dec;(201):179-85.

**Cubitus varus deformity following supracondylar fracture of the humerus. A method for measuring rotational deformity**

I Yamamoto, S Ishii, M Ueda, T Ogino, K Kaneda

PMID: 4064403

(C) [www.targetortho.com](http://www.targetortho.com)

# Rotational malalignment

- Yamamoto Test
- Bhende Test (JBJS)

## CLINICAL MEASUREMENT OF VARUS-VALGUS DEFORMITY AFTER SUPRACONDYLAR FRACTURE OF THE HUMERUS

HARISH S. BHENDE



Fig. 1

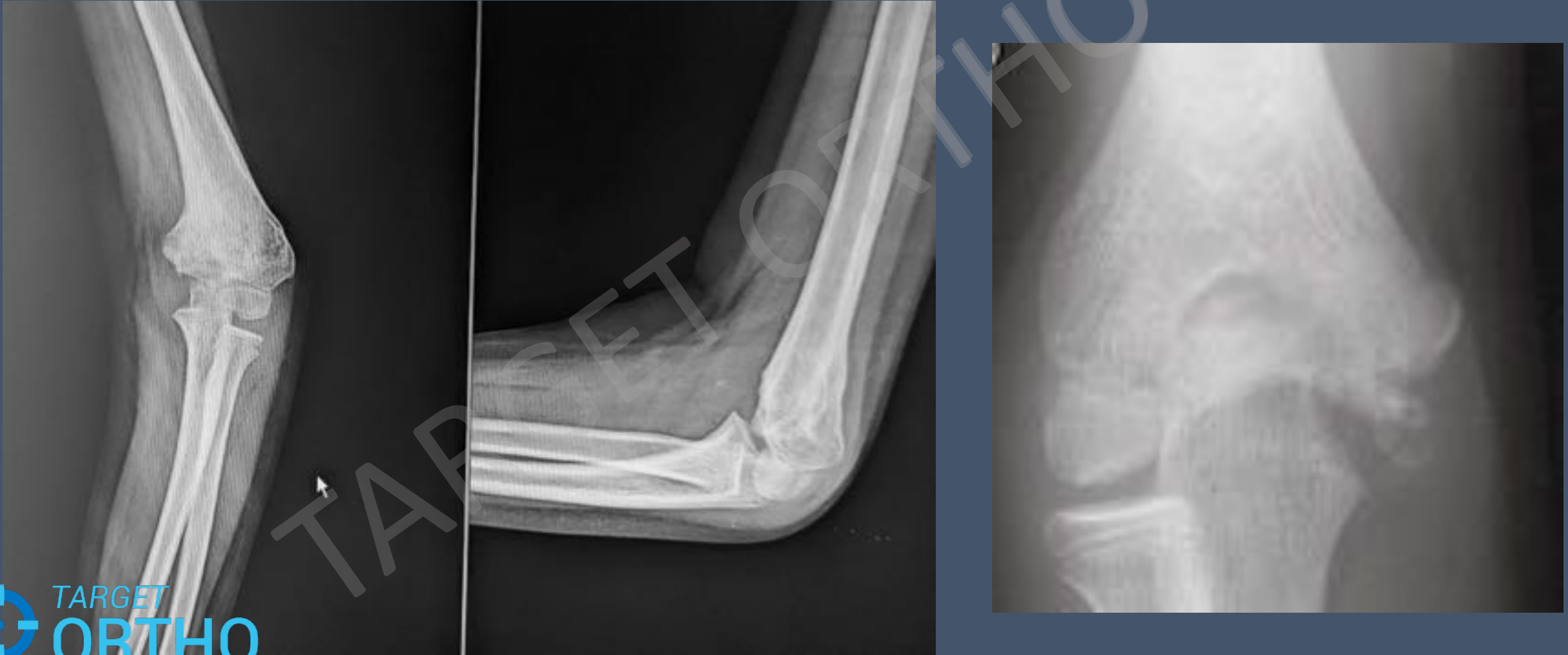


Fig. 2

# Radiology: Fishtail / Progressive Angles



# Will It Remodel/ When To Operate?



# Case Example

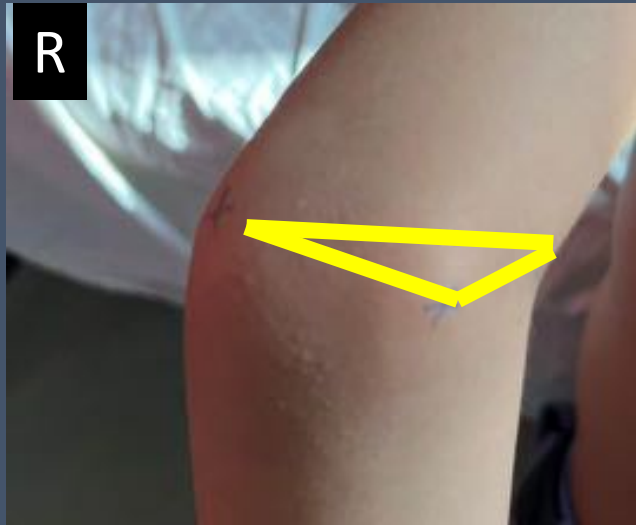




# On presentation

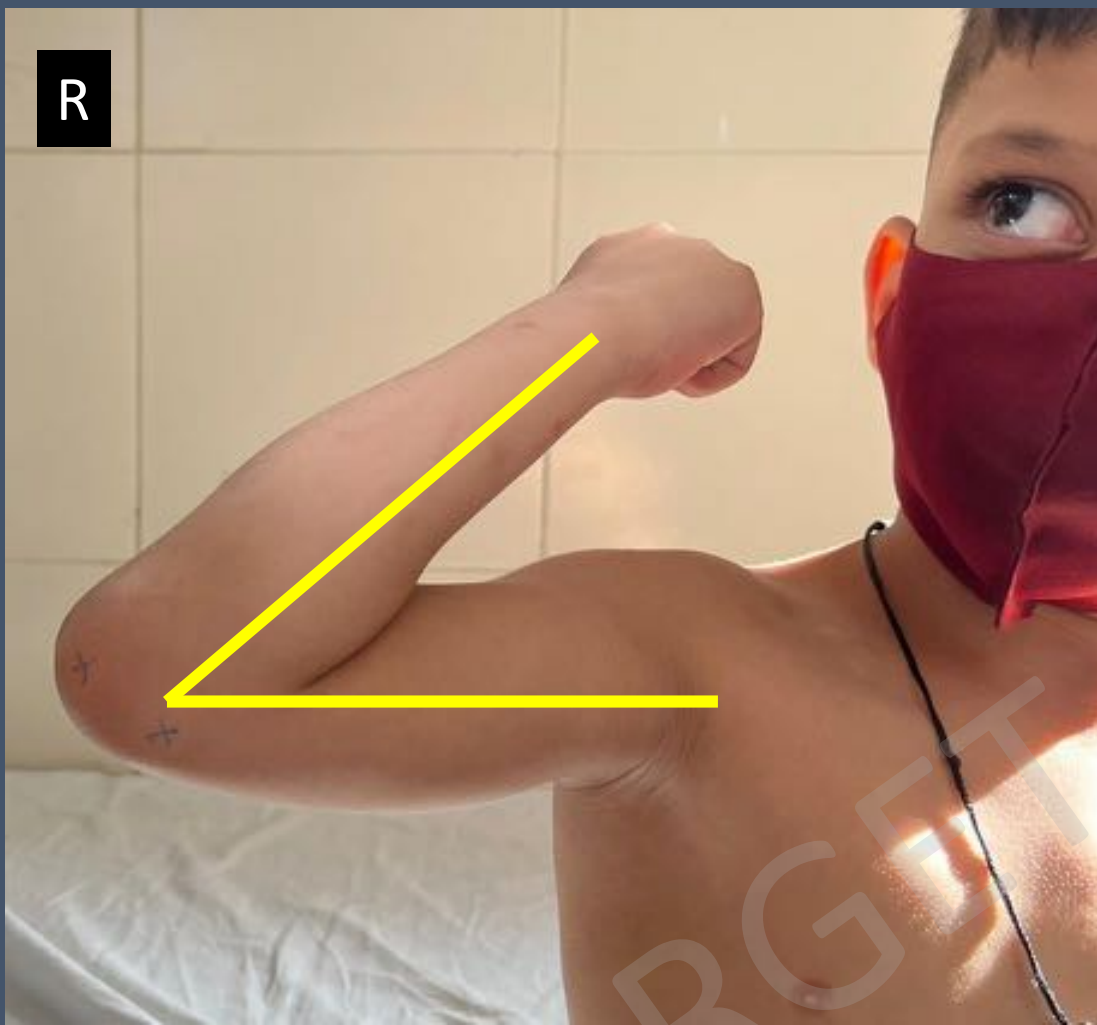
- 6 years age,
- 1 year 3 months post the primary injury
- Complaints of left elbow deformity.





Three point bony maintained.

Isosceles triangle in flexion and a straight line in extension.



Elbow flexion on  
Rt side was possible upto  $135^{\circ}$   
Lt side upto  $115^{\circ}$ .



R



Extension possible on the right side was upto  $0^{\circ}$

L

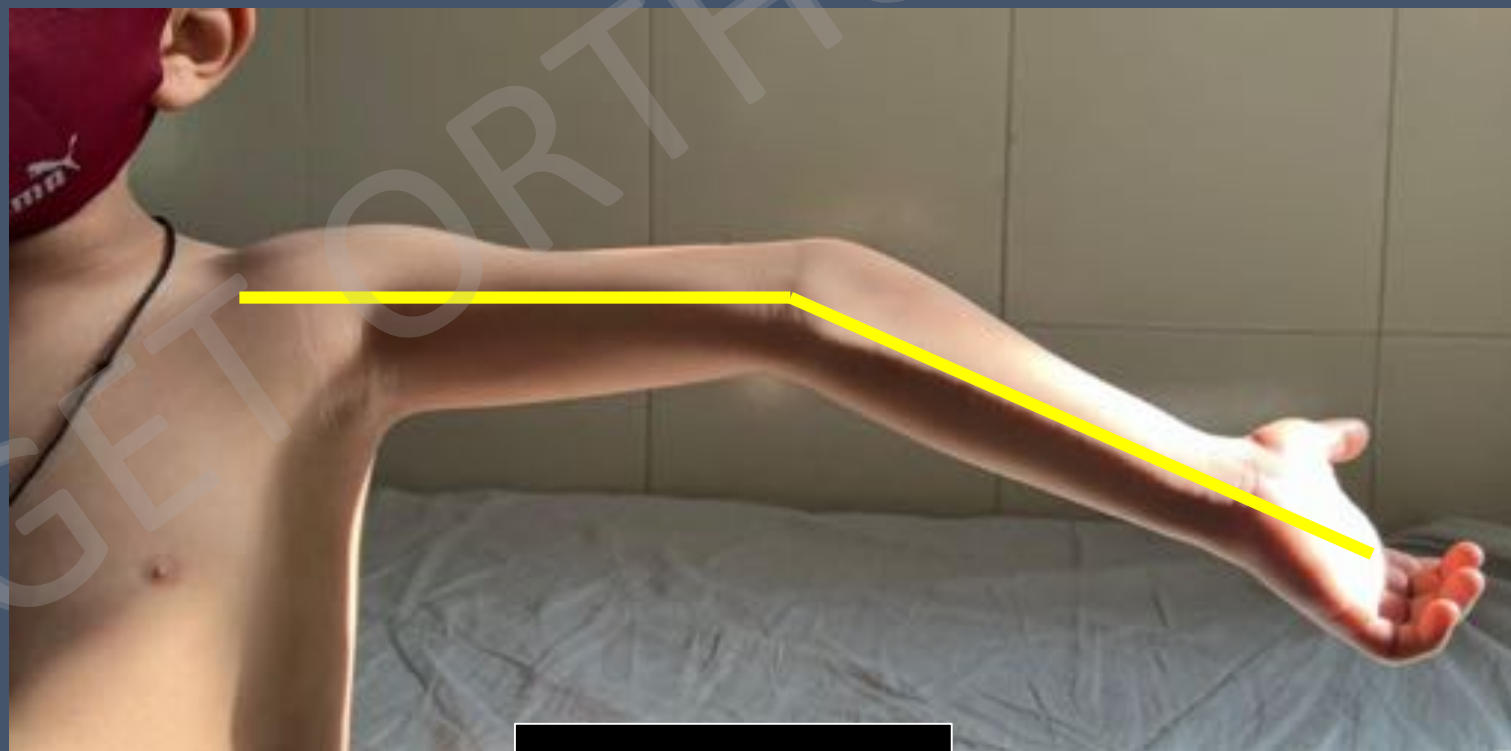


But on the left side was  $20^{\circ}$  of hyperextension



- No rotational malalignment.
- No Distal neurovascular deficit

# Three Plane deformity Assessment



20\* Extension

No rotation

Varus angle :  $12^{\circ}$



Varus angle :  $12^{\circ}$

Baumann angle:  $93^{\circ}$



## Is Cubitus Varus only a cosmetic Problem?

- Posterolateral rotatory instability of the elbow (PLRI)
- - b. Lateral condylar fractures
  - c. Snapping medial triceps
  - d. Ulnar nerve instability



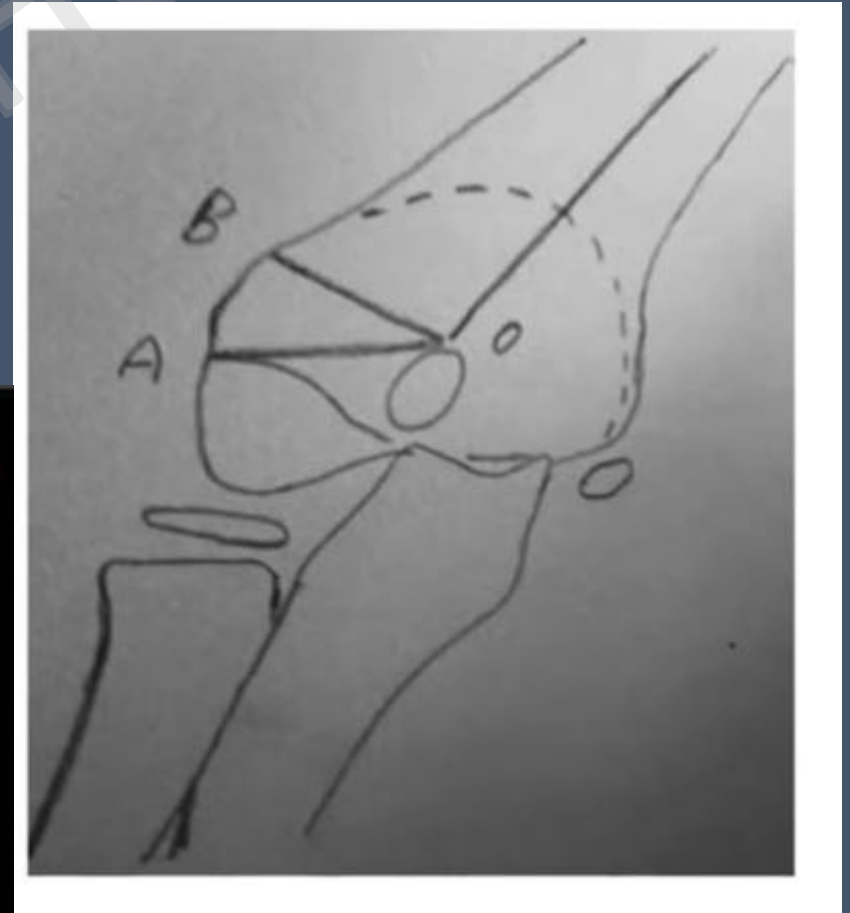
# Surgical Options

Dome

Simple closing-wedge  
osteotomies



Step Cut



## Lateral prominence

Simple closing-wedge  
osteotomies

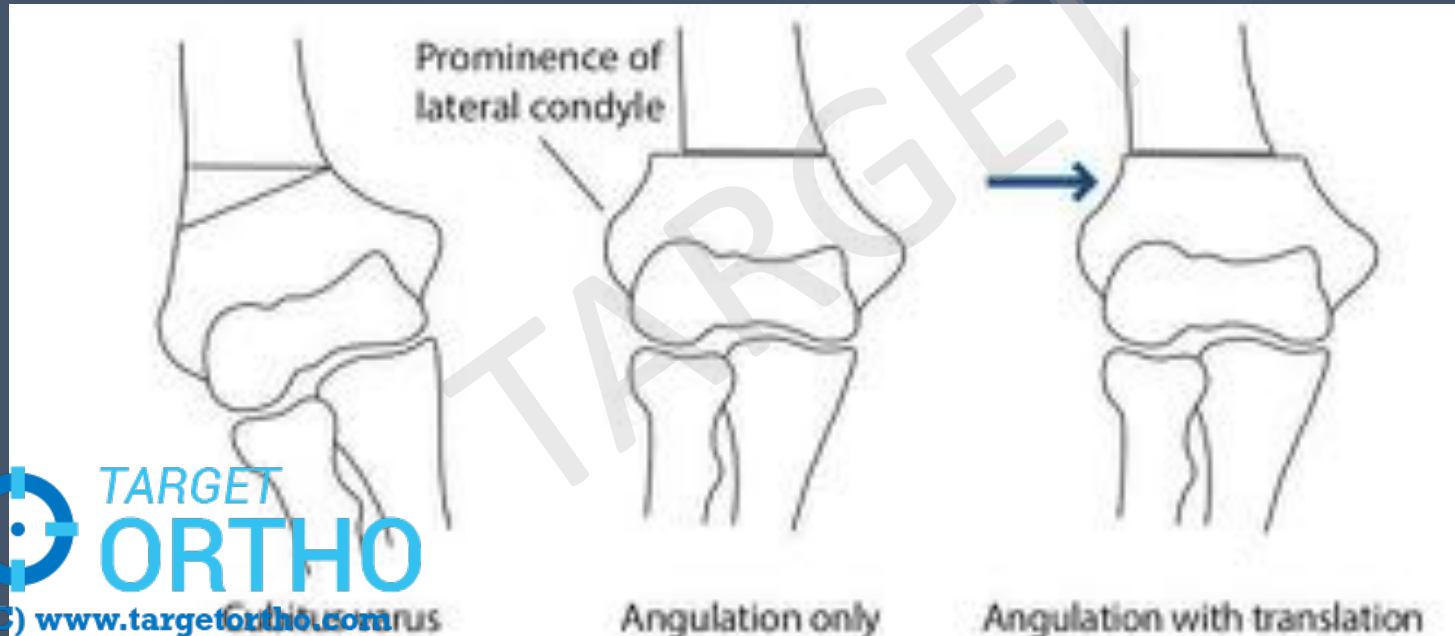


Extensive dissection

Step Cut/  
Dome



Away from CORA

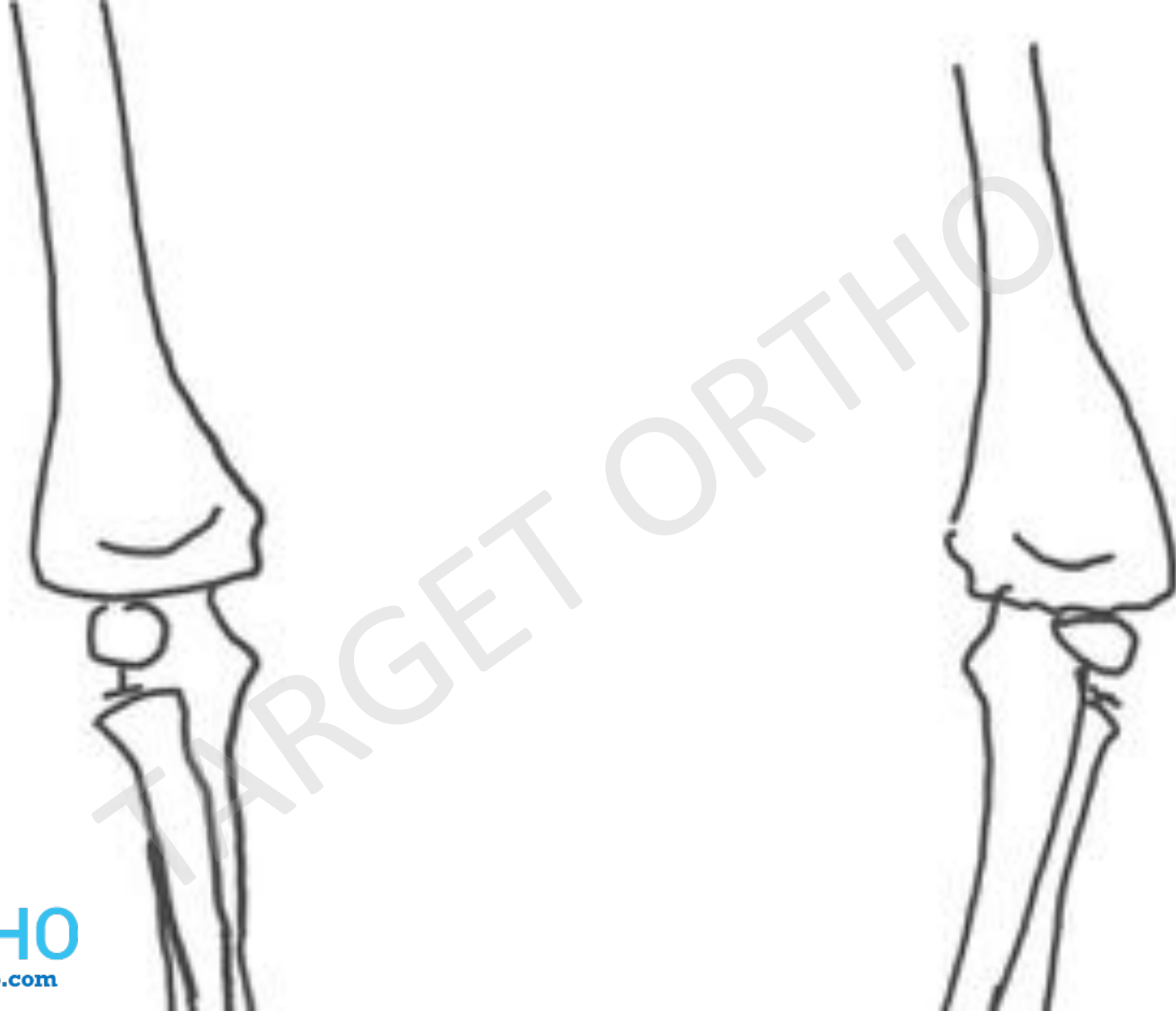


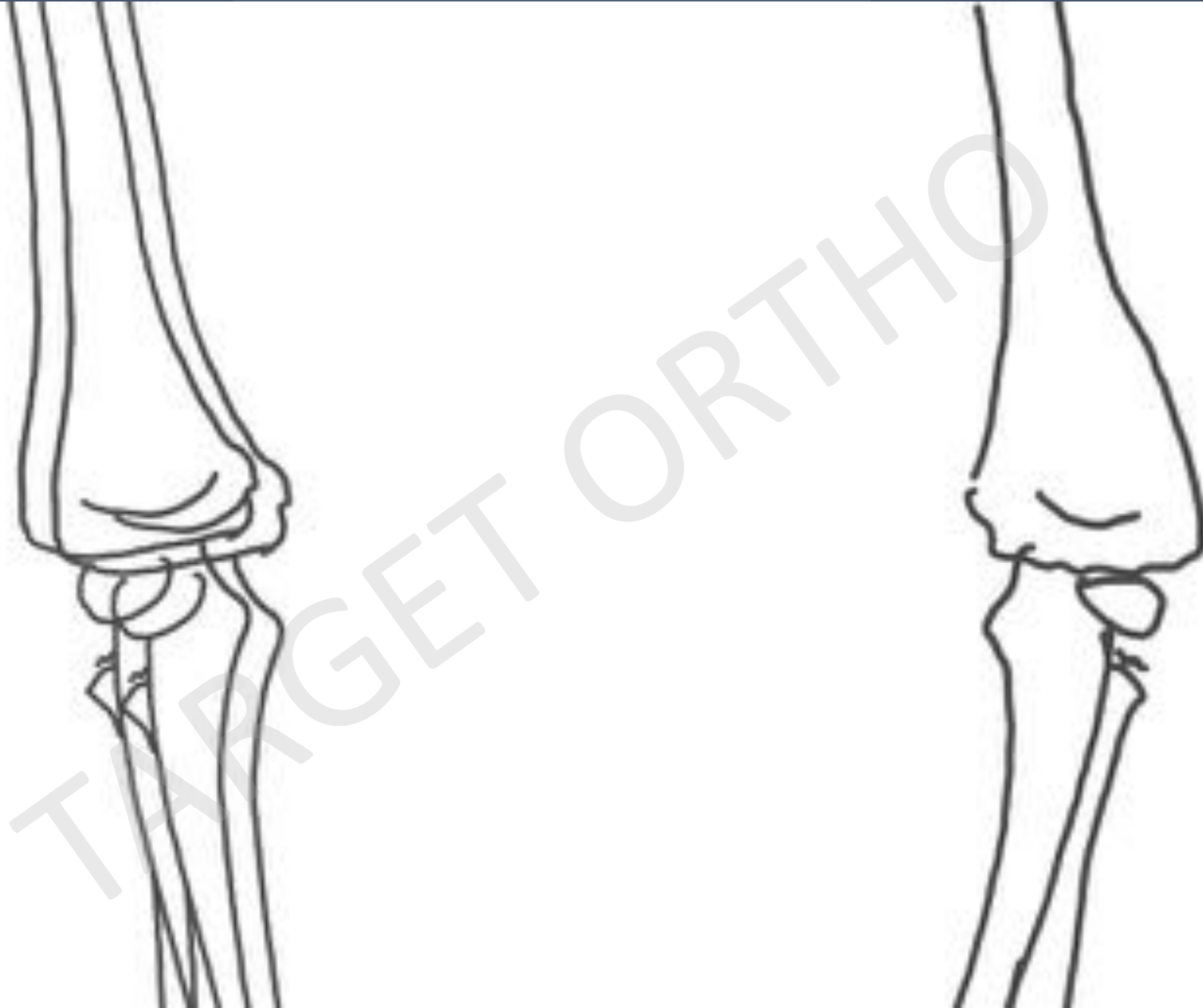
# Planning for Oblique wedge osteotomy

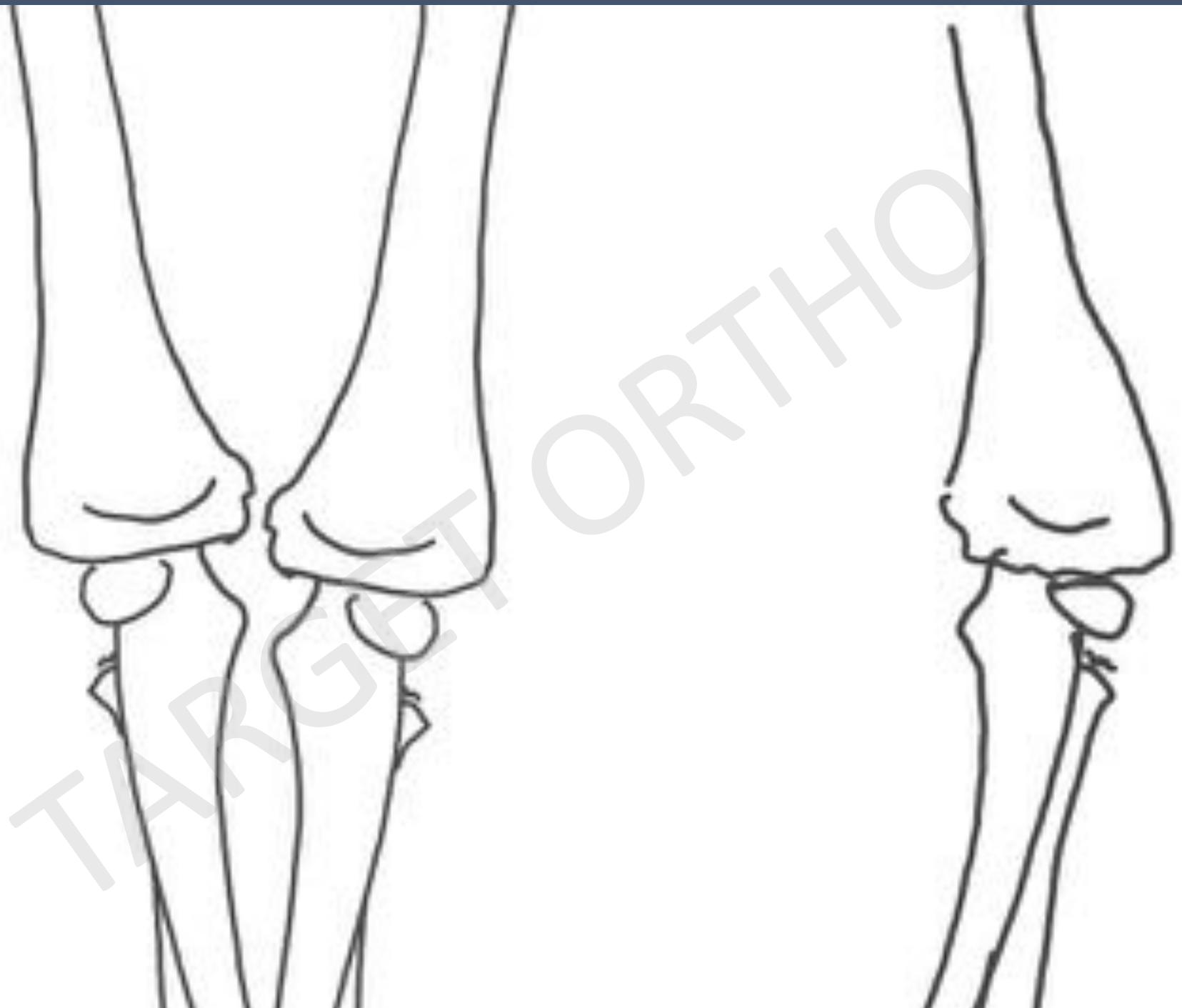
- Approach: TR/BR Interval
- Implant: K wire/ 2.5-3.5 mm / Reconstruction plate











Angle 16\*

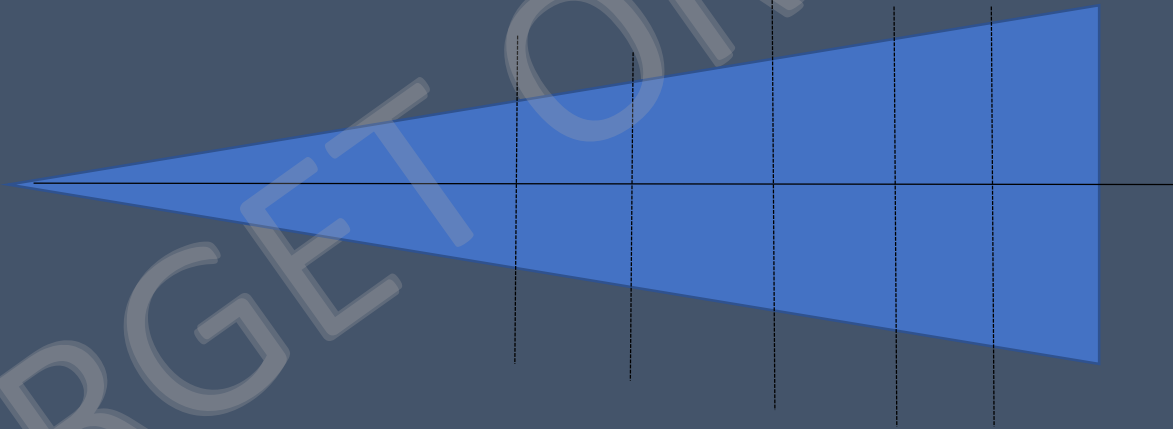
TARGET ORTHO



Triangle with 16\* wedge cut and  
sterilized.

Or

Can use a sterile Goniometer





Plan a V according to the angle of correction

Place the apex of the V just above the medial epicondyle.

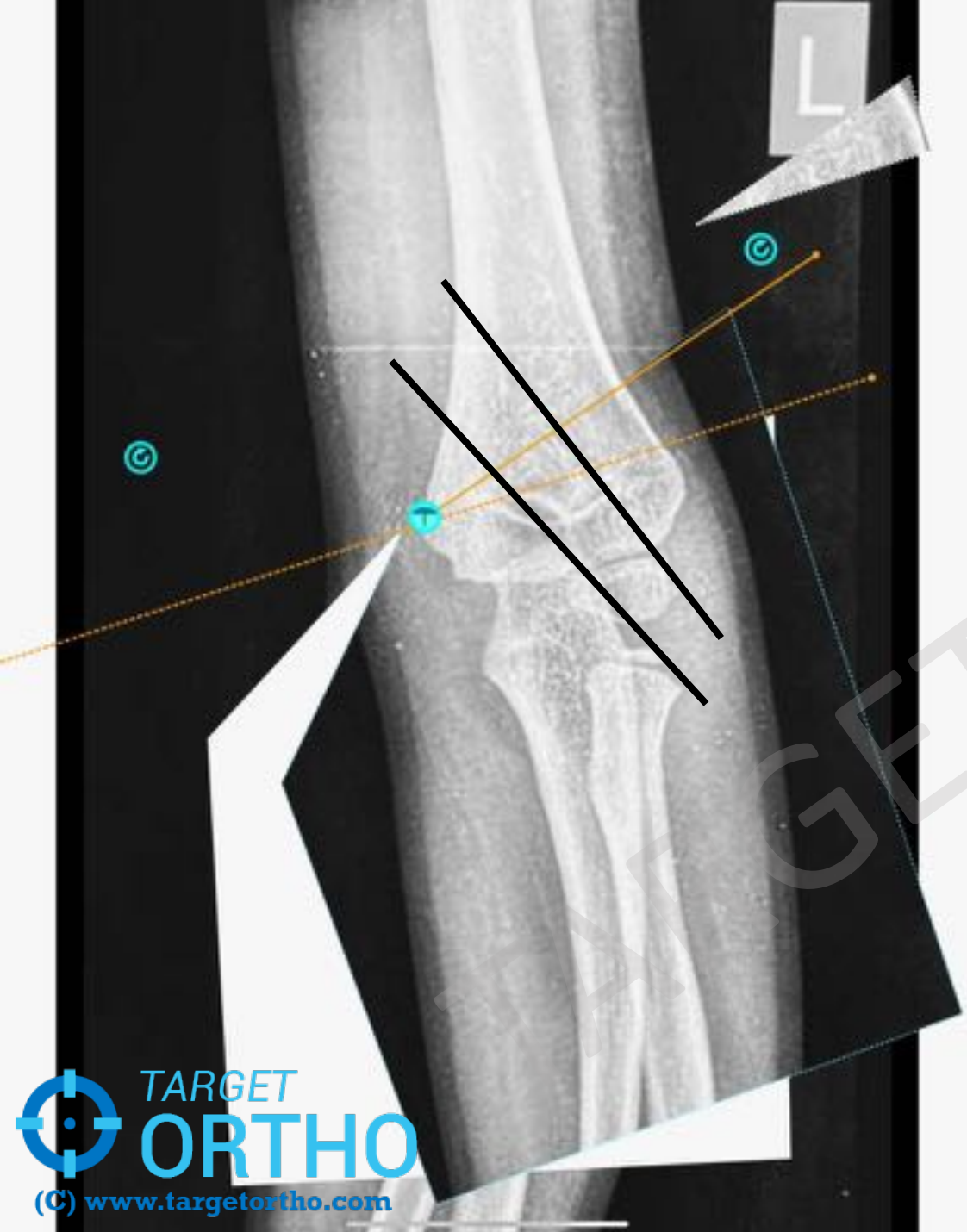
(1) the distal cut is just superior to the olecranon fossa, and  
(2) the proximal cut length is greater than or equal to the distal cut length



The distal osteotomy line is oblique to pathologic joint line



Wedge is removed



With a medial intact hinge, the osteotomy is closed.

Fixed with K wires.





ESSENTIAL SURGICAL TECHNIQUES

## SUBSPECIALTY PROCEDURES

# OBLIQUE LATERAL CLOSING-WEDGE OSTEOTOMY FOR CUBITUS VARUS IN SKELETALLY IMMATURE PATIENTS

Dustin A. Greenhill, MD, Scott H. Kozin, MD, Michael Kwon, MD, Martin J. Herman, MD

Indications			
Bilateral cubitus varus or valgus in child with chromosomal anomaly	Unilateral cubitus varus or valgus + Mild deformity + No risk of progression (no growth plate damage) + Parents or child very concerned about deformity	Unilateral cubitus varus or valgus + Moderate or severe deformity + No risk of progression (no growth plate damage)	Unilateral cubitus varus or valgus + Mild or moderate deformity + Progression present (growth plate damage present)
↓ No intervention	↓ Closed wedge supracondylar osteotomy	↓ Closed wedge supracondylar osteotomy + Displacement of distal fragment (medially while correcting varus OR laterally while correcting valgus)	↓ Defer surgery until close to skeletal maturity and follow guidelines as in column 2 or 3 <i>Intervene earlier if deformity becomes severe or if joint instability develops</i>
Treatment			

# Elbow “TRASH” Lesion

- The Radiologic Appearance Seemed Harmless

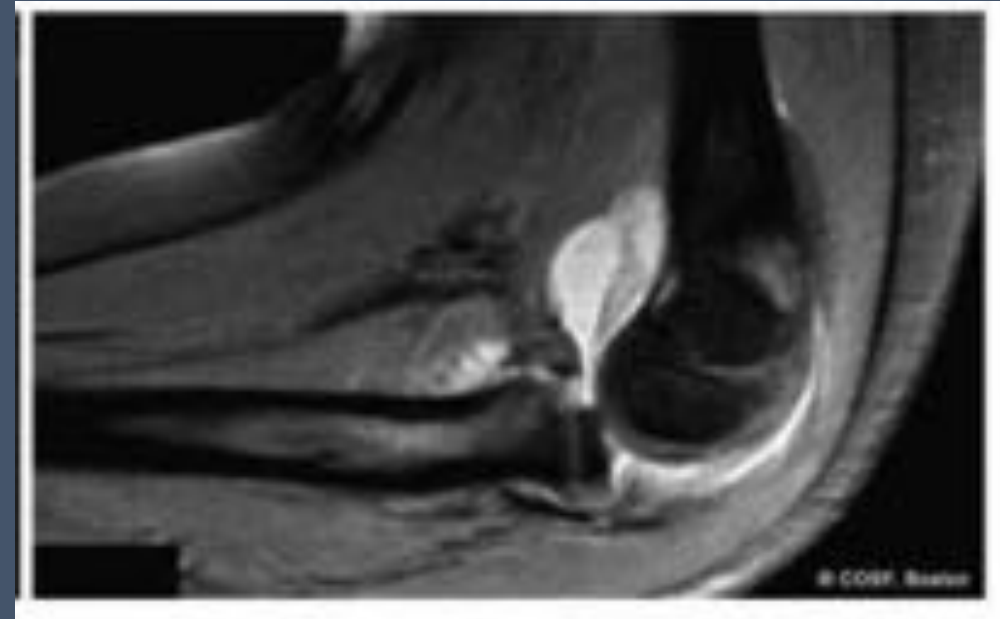
## TRASH Lesions

Unossified Medial Condylar Humerus fracture  
Unossifies transphyseal distal humerus fracture  
Entrapped Medial epicondylar fractures  
Osteochondral fracture- Dislocation  
Radial head compression fracture with RC subluxation

Monteggia

Lateral condylar avulsion Shear

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Thank You