



**Penn Medicine**  
Neurosurgery

# **Navigated Osteosynthesis for Unstable Atlas Fractures**

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Neurological and  
Orthopaedic Surgeons**

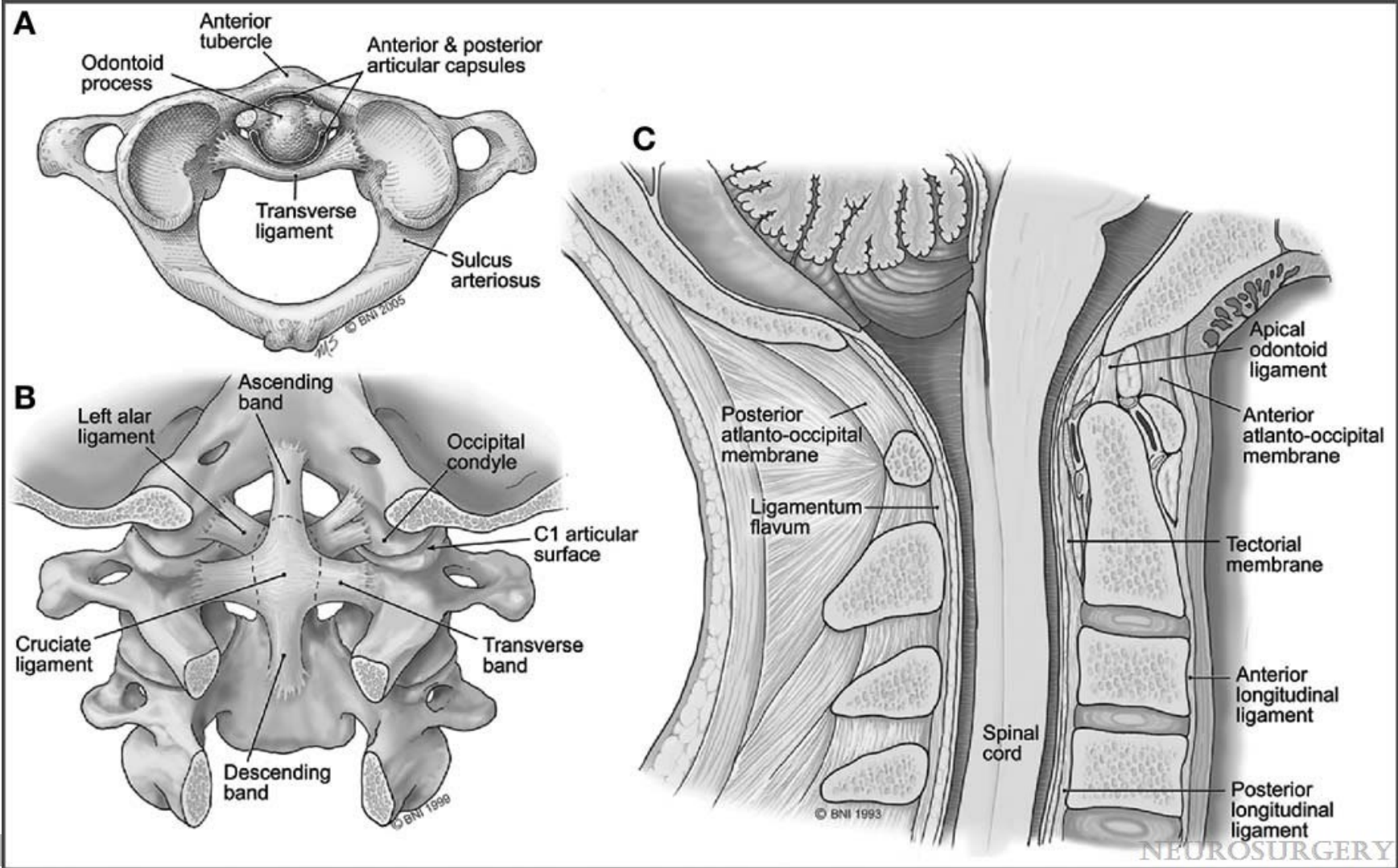
***47<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting***

***April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

No financial conflicts to disclose.



# Atlas Anatomy



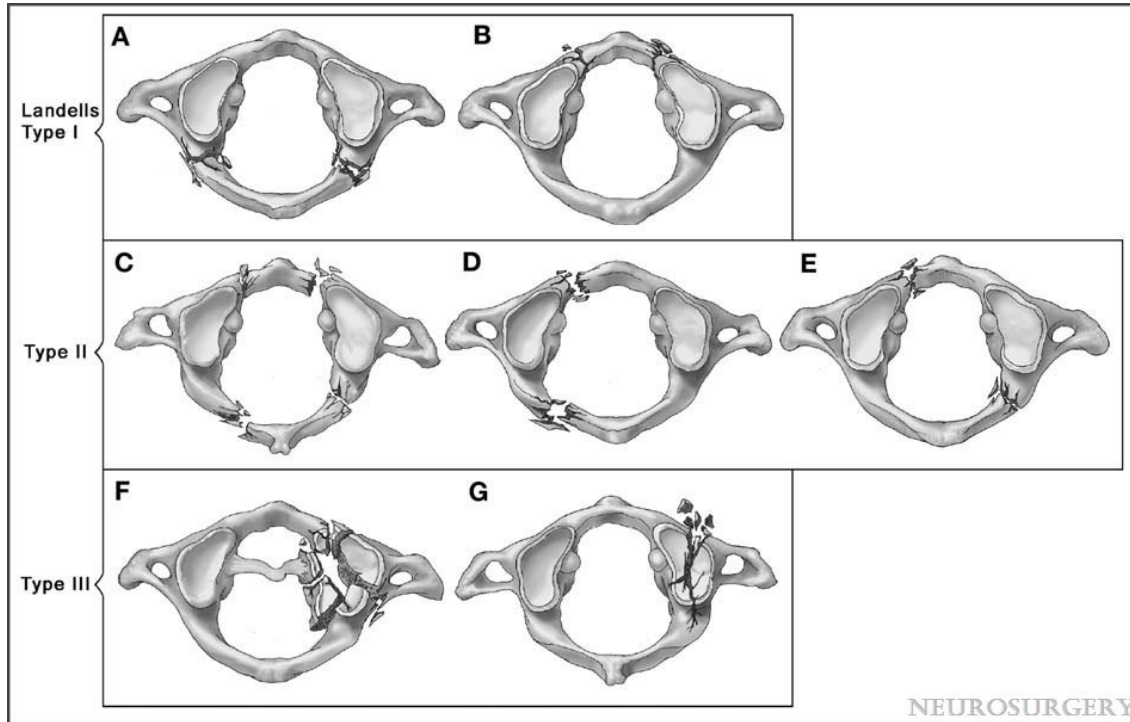
Kakarla, Udaya K.; Chang, Steve W.; Theodore, Nicholas; Sonntag, Volker K. H. Neurosurgery66(3):A60-A67, March 2010.

# Atlas Fractures



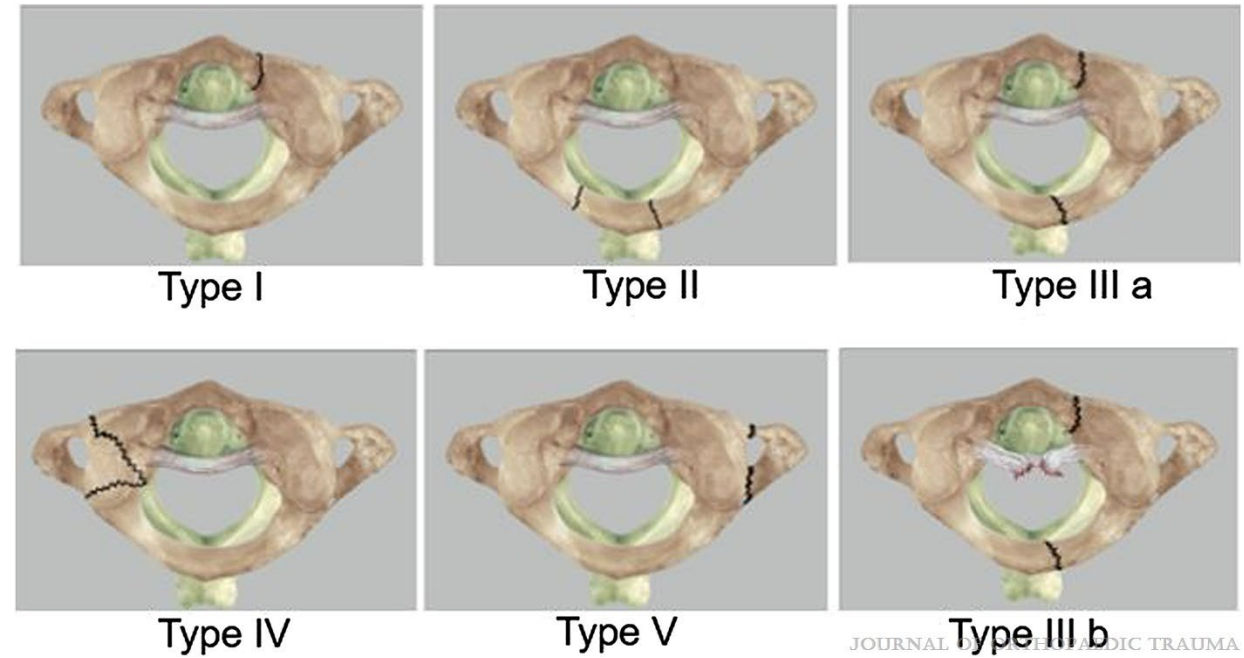
# Fracture Classification

## Landells and Van Peteghem



Kakarla, Udaya K.; Chang, Steve W.; Theodore, Nicholas; Sonntag, Volker K. H. Neurosurgery66(3):A60-A67, March 2010.

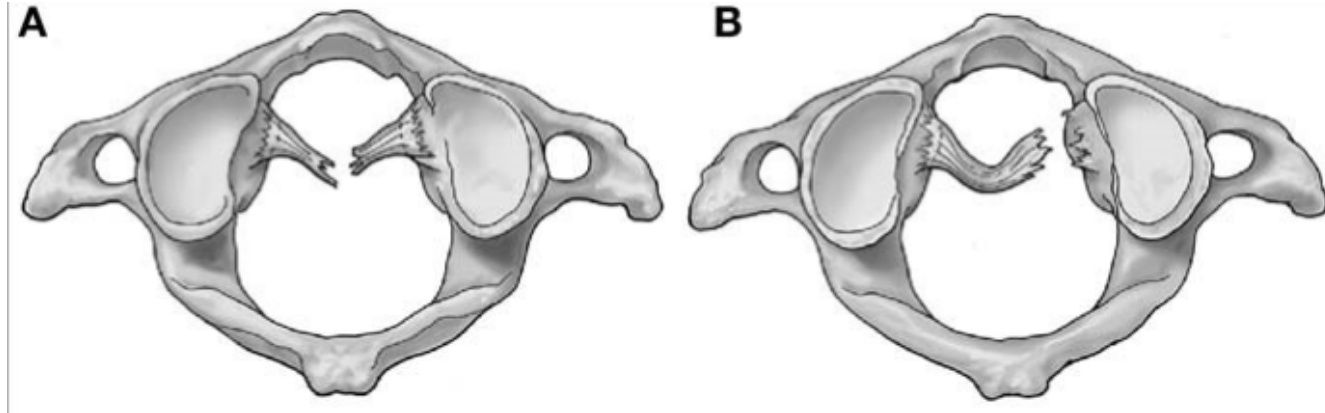
## Gehweiler



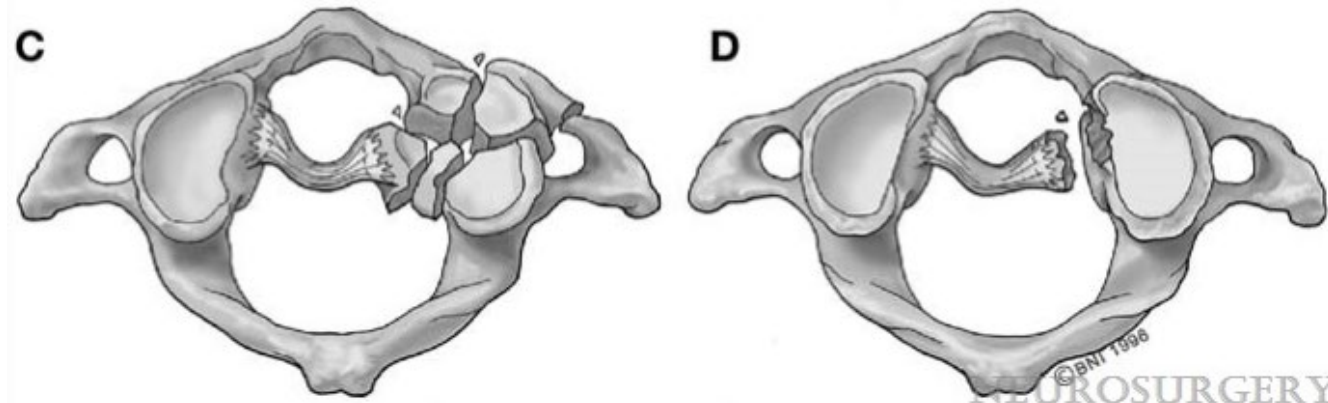
Kandziora, Frank; Chapman, Jens R.; Vaccaro, Alexander R.; Schroeder, Gregory D.; Scholz, Matti. Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma31:S81-S89, September 2017.

# Dickman Classification of Transverse Ligament Injury

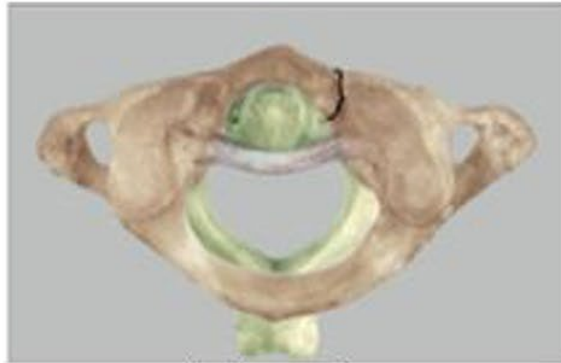
Type I



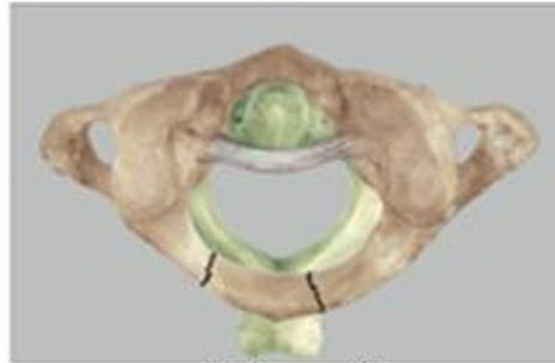
Type II



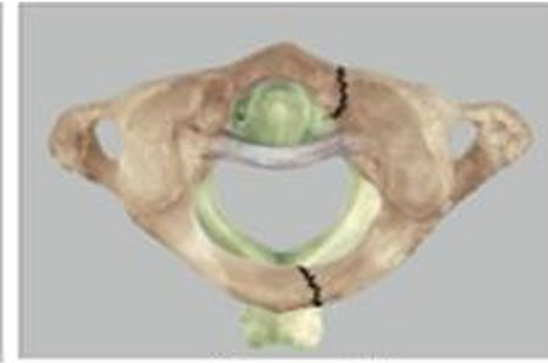
# Treatment Approach for Atlas Fractures



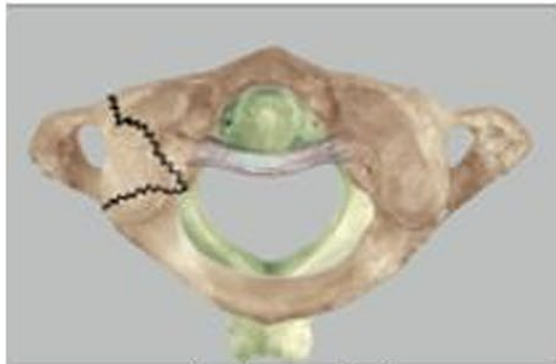
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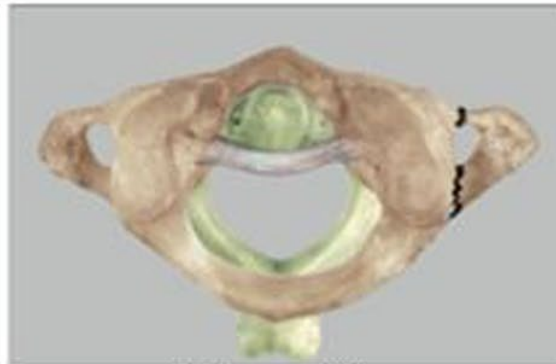
Type II



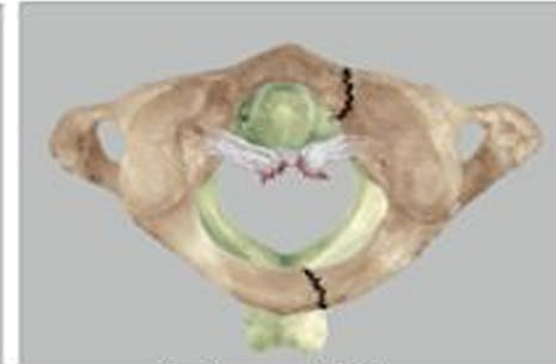
Type III a



Type IV



Type V

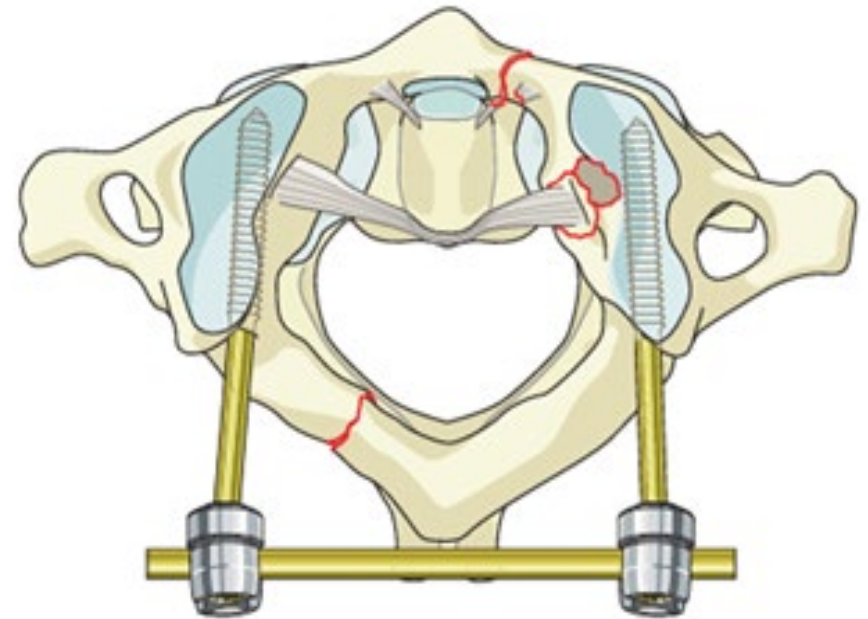
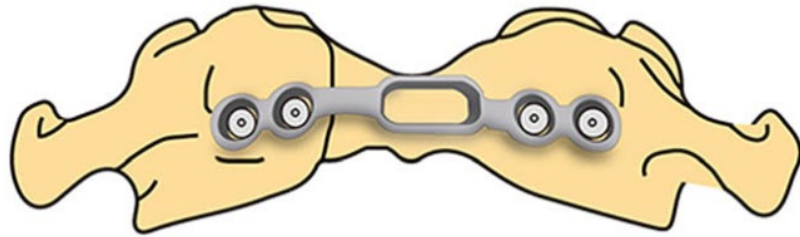


Type III b

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# Atlas Osteosynthesis



AO

**Motion-Preserving Alternative to C1-C2 fusion**



# Navigated Osteosynthesis for Unstable Atlas Fractures

Single Level I Trauma Center

Case series (n=8)

- 5 Male, 3 Female
- Mean Age 51.3

Gehweiler Classification

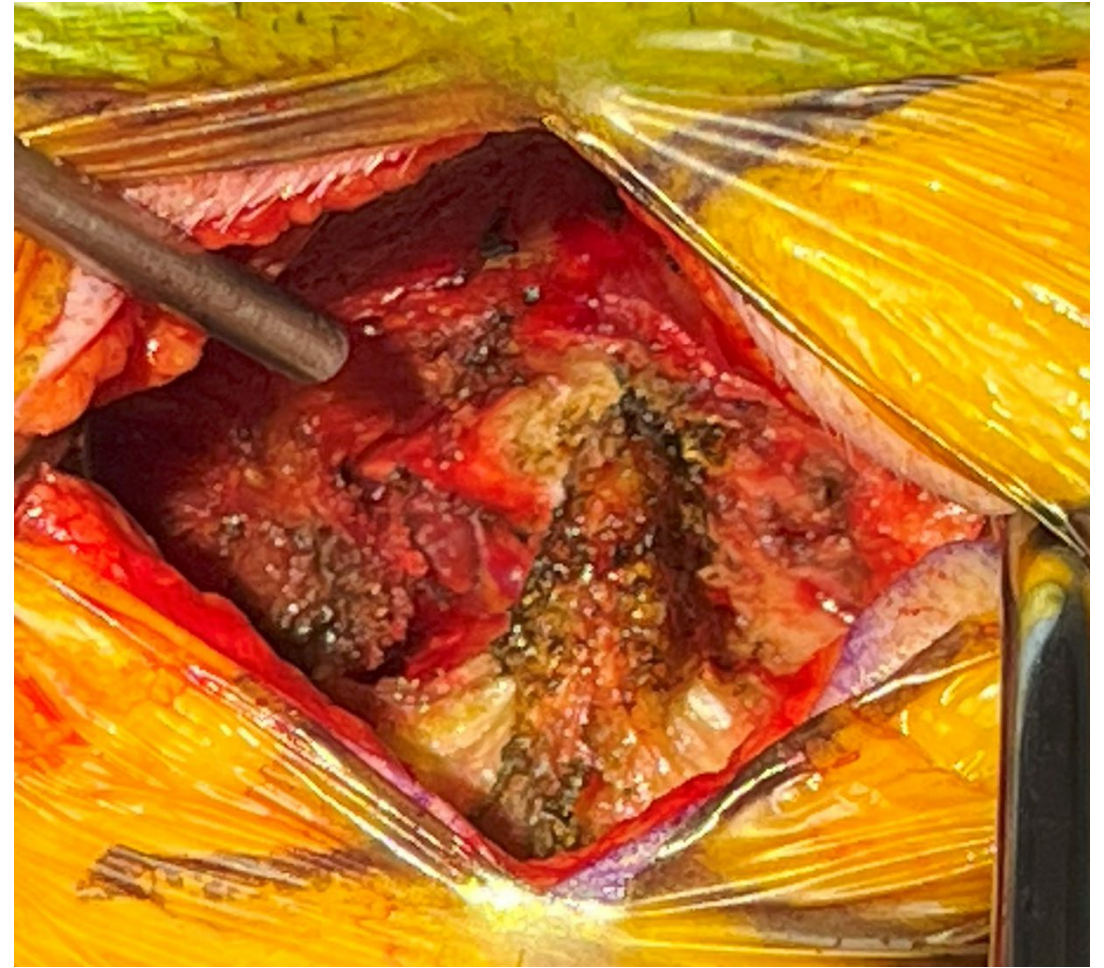
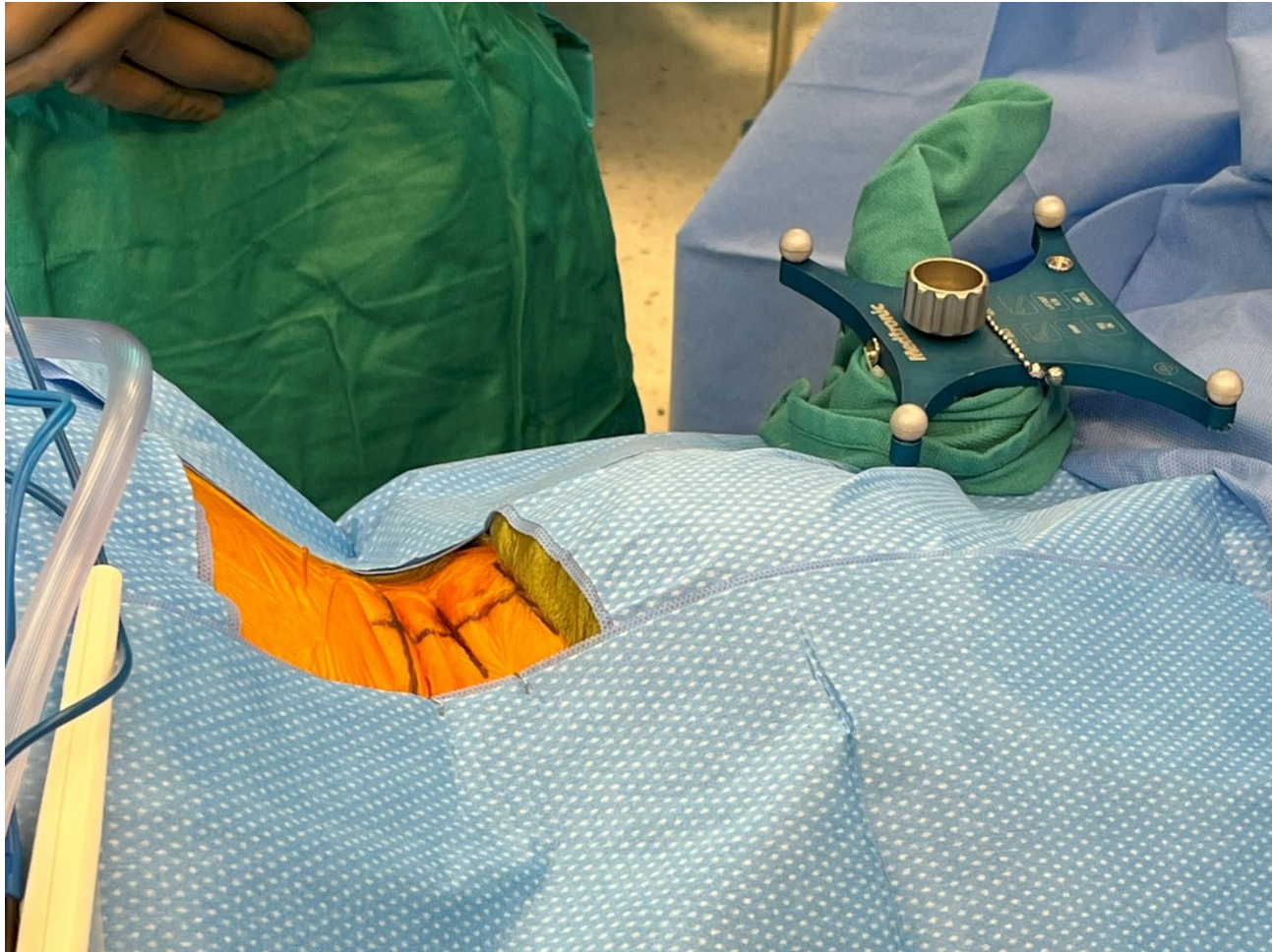
- Type IIIb (n=7)
- Type IV (n=1)

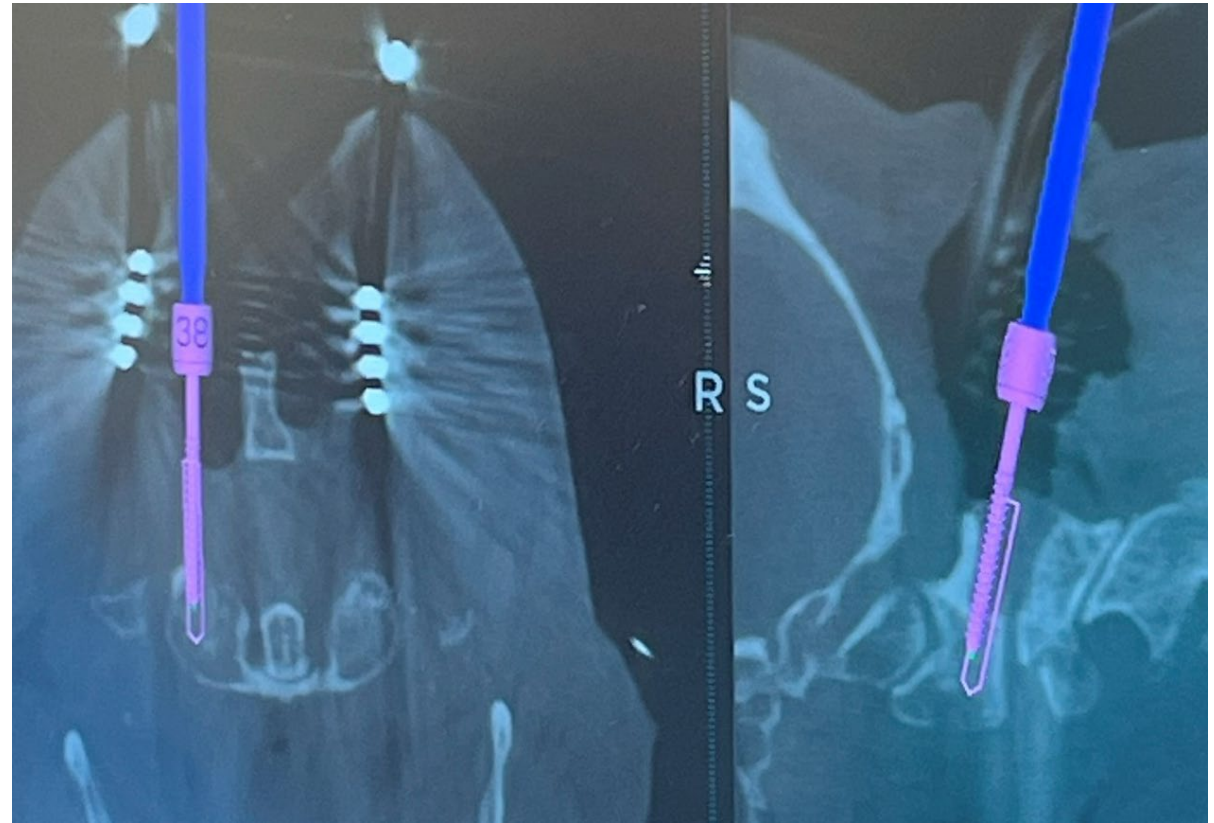
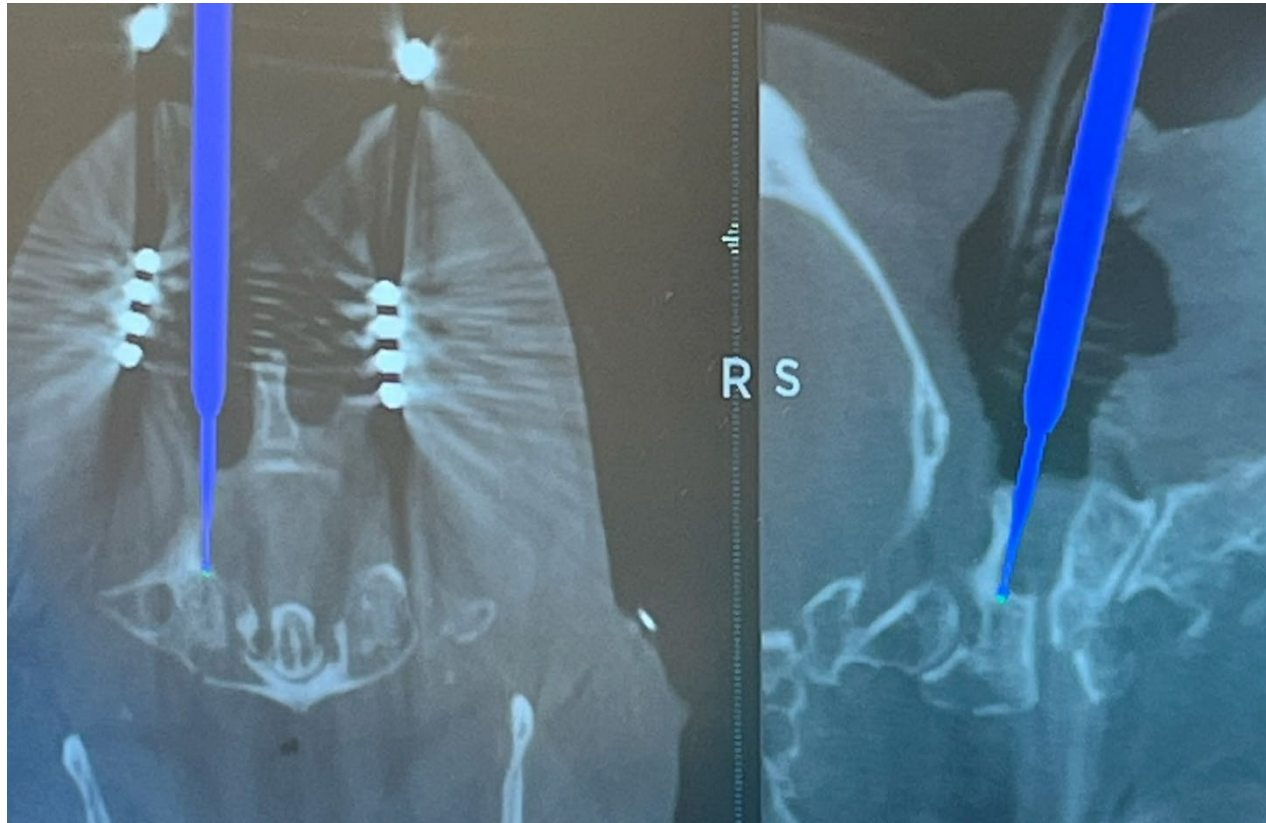
Dickman Classification

- Type I (n=1)
- Type II (n=6)
- Mixed Type I and Type II (n=1)

Navigation to facilitate C1 lateral mass screw placement in setting of traumatically distorted anatomy











# Outcomes

Median Follow-Up 7 months (range 1-91 months)

Post-Op Rigid Cervical Collar

- Median 12 Weeks (Range 6-20)

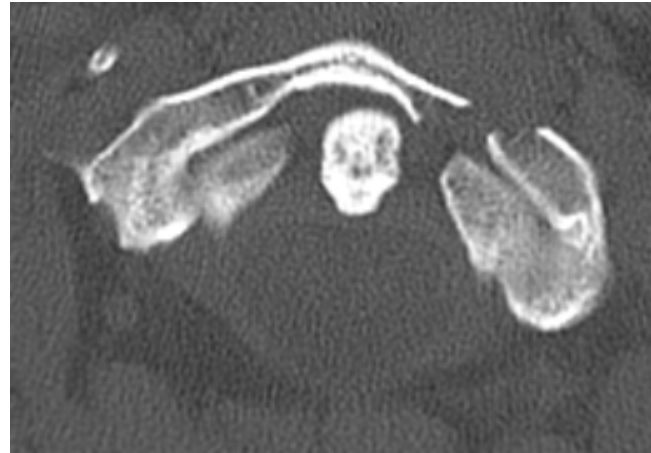
All 8 cases with follow up URXR demonstrating preserved alignment



# Outcomes

6 cases with follow up CT, all demonstrating development of osseous union across fractures

None with development of instability requiring C1-C2 or O-C fusion



# Acknowledgments

- Yohannes Ghenbot
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