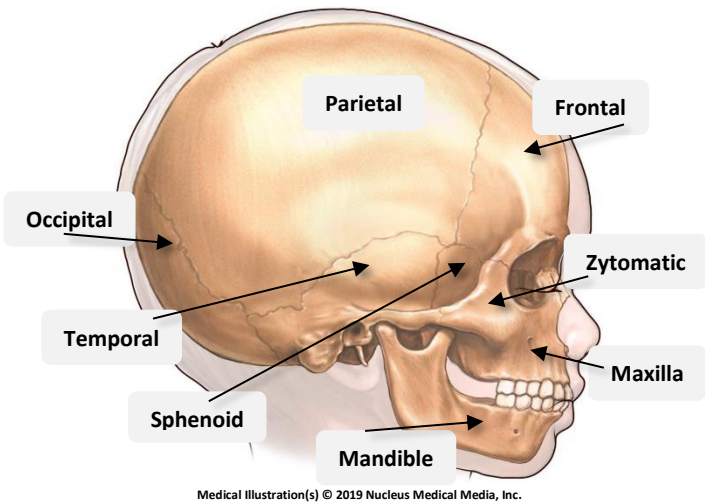


Cook Children's  
 Dept of Neurosurgery  
 682-885-2500  
 Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Skull**  
 Holds and protects our brain



**Types of Skull Fractures**

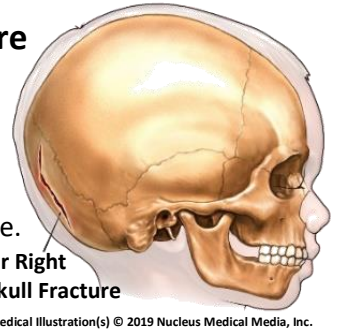
<b>Linear</b>	Most common type of fractures in children. Can be single or multiple fractures that involve the full thickness of the skull.
<b>Comminuted</b>	Multiple connected linear fractures.
<b>Depressed</b>	Pushed inward and can be associated with trauma to the brain underneath the fracture.
<b>Open</b>	Skin over fracture with a laceration or full thickness abrasion.
<b>Basilar</b>	Fractures that can disrupt bones of the sinuses or middle ear may have associated cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak from the nose or the ears.

**Please Remember**

1. Every child is different. It may take your child longer to heal than another child.
2. 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 can evaluate a fracture. Sometimes an additional scan is needed to identify injury behind the 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 specific treatment from the surgery team.

*Basilar skull fractures*, with an associated CSF leak, will require special treatment. It is important for your child to be hospitalized and monitored until the CSF stops leaking from their nose or ears.

**Follow-up Care**

**Swelling around area of fracture**

Common in children with skull fractures. Often peaks 3 to 7 days after the injury. It may take 4 to 6 weeks for the swelling to go away.

**Activity**

The Neurosurgery team will limit your child's activity during recovery. The most important prevention: Keep your child from falling and hitting their head while healing.

**Pain medicine**

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

**Repeating Imaging**

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.

**Recovery**

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

These instructions are only general guidelines. Your health care providers may give you special instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your health care providers.