

# Dislocation of the elbow joint

Dislocation of the elbow joint makes up a fifth of all dislocations and is very often associated with a fracture of the head of the radius, the coronoid process, or a fracture of the epicondyle. Luxation is always associated with a **lesion of the lateral ligaments** and one must think of a **nerve injury** (*n. medianus* and *n. ulnaris*).

## Classification

### 1. Humeroulnar dislocation

- dorsal = posterior dislocation
- dorsomedial (ulnar)
- dorsolateral (radial)

### 2. Radioulnar dislocation

- dislocation of the head of the radius - usually occurs in combination with a fracture of the proximal part of the ulna.

## Diagnostics

- anamnesis – circumstances and mechanism of dislocation
- clinical examination – examination of joint stability, peripheral circulation and innervation (*n. medianus*, *n. ulnaris*)
- X-ray – exclusion of a luxation fracture

## Therapy

- **conservative** - closed reduction under local anesthesia
- **operational** - if reduction is not possible, ligament reconstruction is usually performed at the same time

## Complications

- Nerve damage - especially *n. ulnaris*
- vascular injury
- compartment syndrome
- periarticular ossification
- limitation of joint mobility



Elbow luxation

## Links

### Related Articles

- Luxation
- Shoulder joint dislocation

### Source

- SOSNA, A, P VAVŘÍK a M KRBEC, et al. *Základy ortopedie*. 1. vydání. Praha : Triton, 2001. 175 s. ISBN 80-7254-202-8.
- WENDSCHE, Peter a Radek VESELÝ. *Traumatologie*. 1. vydání. 2001. 344 s. ISBN 9788074922114.