



# Radial head/neck fracture

## Virtual Fracture Care

You have a small fracture of the head or neck of your radius, which is one of the bones in your elbow. We treat this fracture with a pressure bandage and a sling.

### Summary

- You have a small fracture of the radius bone at the level of the elbow.
- This type of injury almost always heals well without any loss of function.
- A routine follow-up is not necessary for this type of injury.
- It is important that you remove the sling and pressure bandage after a maximum of one week (if pain allows this) and that you start exercising to avoid stiffness in the elbow.
- To prevent the finger from getting stiff, it is important that you start moving the finger again as soon as possible.
- You can find exercises for your elbow in the folder or the app.
- If you have any questions, or are experiencing problems with your recovery, you can call the “Breuklijn” (fracture hotline) on work days between 08:00 – 10:00 and 13:00 – 15:00.



## Treatment

A fracture of the radial head or neck is a common injury. The fracture is treated with a pressure bandage and a sling.

### 0-1 week

- Wear a sling, remove it as soon as your pain allows this.
- Wear a pressure bandage, remove it as soon as your pain allows this.

### 1-4 weeks

- Start exercises: bend, extend and rotate your arm.
- Move your arm as much as your pain allows.

### 4-6 weeks

- Move your elbow in all directions, when your pain allows it.

### After 6 weeks

- You can start sports.

## Instructions

Follow these instructions for a good recovery.

- Wear a pressure bandage and sling, this will keep your arm in a comfortable position.
- You do not need the pressure bandage and sling after one week. We advise you to stop using the sling after one week, or earlier if the pain allows you to do this. If you are still experiencing a lot of pain after one week, you can wear the pressure bandage for another week.
- You can replace the pressure bandage yourself. You can use the pressure bandage you are currently wearing, or you can buy a new bandage at the pharmacy. You can find instructions on how to reapply the pressure bandage in the app.
- This fracture is close to your elbow joint. Start bending and extending your arm as soon as your pain allows you to do this. This will prevent the elbow from getting stiff. You can find exercises in the app or in the information folder.
- Are you in pain? Use a mild pain killer such as paracetamol (acetaminophen). Do not wait with the use of paracetamol until the pain is too much.

## Recovery

- This type of injury almost always heals well with time and use – no specific treatment is required and routine follow-up is unnecessary.
- It is possible that after 4-6 weeks, the range of motion of your elbow is still slightly reduced. This is unlikely to affect your long-term function and will improve in the months after.
- Physiotherapy is not necessary. If you are not satisfied with the function of your elbow after 6 weeks, you can ask for a referral to a physiotherapist from your general practitioner. However, a referral is not required.
- Does the pain increase, or does it not improve? Please contact the “Breuklijn” (fracture hotline).

## Reapply the pressure bandage

In the video below you can find instructions on how to reapply the pressure bandage. You can buy new materials at the pharmacy or reuse the materials from the emergency department.

**Video:** [Aanleggen drukverband elleboog - YouTube](#)

## Exercises

After a fracture in the elbow stiffness and loss of strength can occur. The following exercises can support your recovery.

### Instructions

Follow the instructions below:

- Practice at least 3 times a day and repeat each exercise 10 times.
- You can perform the exercises in warm water.
- Use your hand as normal as possible, this also exercises the elbow.

### Elbow bend and straighten

After 1 week, you can start to bend and straighten the elbow. Bend and straighten your elbow so you feel a mild to moderate stretch. You can use your other arm to assist. Do not push into pain.



When you can successfully perform this exercise, you can start to bend and straighten the elbow without the use of your other arm.



### Forearm rotations

After 4 weeks, you can start forearm rotations. Put your **elbow at your side**, do not hold it in the air. Bend your elbow to 90 degrees. Slowly rotate your palm up and down until you feel a mild to moderate stretch. You can use your other arm to assist if necessary. Do not push into pain.



## Questions?

You can call us.

If there are any questions after reading the information, please contact us or visit [www.spaarnegasthuis.nl](http://www.spaarnegasthuis.nl)

## Contact

Breuklijn: (023) 224 0025

Please call us on work days between 08:00 – 10:00 and 13:00 – 15:00.

## Directly to the information in the Virtual Fracture Care app?

The QR code below will take you directly to the information from this folder.



## Waar zijn we te vinden?

### Haarlem Zuid

Boerhaavelaan 22  
2035 RC Haarlem

(023) 224 0000

### Haarlem Noord

Vondelweg 999  
2026 BW Haarlem

[www.spaarnegasthuis.nl](http://www.spaarnegasthuis.nl)

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