

SAQ 6

A 68 yr old female presents to your Emergency Department following a fall. She complains of a painful left wrist. You have been asked by the orthopaedic team to manipulation and plaster this injury in the Emergency Department.

a. List 6 positive findings on the patient's wrist x-ray (6 Marks)

1/2 Mark each for:

- *Fractured distal radius*
 - *Comminuted*
 - *Intra-articular*
 - *Impaction / shortening*
 - *Volar / palmar angulation*
- *Ulna styloid fracture*

b. List 2 negative findings on the patient's wrist x-ray (2Mark)

- *No splint / POP visible*
- *Nil soft tissue deficit / laceration noted*
- *Nil air visible in soft tissue*
- *Nil rings noted*
- *Nil destructive bony lesion*

c. List 6 factors that would positively influence your decision to perform the manipulation in the Emergency Department (6 Marks)

- *Patient factors*
 - *Neurovascular compromise*
 - *Consents to reduction in ED*
 - *Fasted - if procedural sedation considered*
 - *No contraindication to proposed reduction method*
- *Department Factors*
 - *Appropriate skill mix available*
 - *Equipment available*
 - *Area available*
- *System factors*
 - *Delay in theatre*

d. List 6 factors that would negatively influence your decision to perform the manipulation in the Emergency Department (3 Marks)

1/2 Mark each up to 3 marks from:

- *Patient factors*
 - *Patient has no compromise and comfortable*
 - *Refusal for reduction in ED*
 - *Significant co-morbidities*
 - *Airway risk*
 - *Not fasted*
 - *Clear indication for immediate OT e.g. open #, compartment syndrome*
- *Department Factors*
 - *Busy department*
 - *Unsuitable skill mix*
 - *Equipment not available*
 - *Space not available*
 - *Time of day e.g. overnight*
- *System factors*
 - *Unlikely to be definitive Tx - Smith's fracture high likelihood of slip and need for ORIF*

*Images taken from radiopedia.org clinical case 'Smith fracture' by Dr Eric F Greif
(<http://radiopaedia.org/cases/smith-fracture-3>)*

(Elly - would like some thoughts on rewording of questions c & d based on candidate feedback and also additional suitable answers as my list isn't exhaustive)