

## MUSCULOSKELETAL MONTEGGIA/GALEAZZI INJURIES



**Monteggia fracture-dislocation:** there is a fracture of the shaft of ulna associated with dislocation of the radial head at the elbow. It is caused by a fall onto a pronated, outstretched hand. To spot subtle radial head dislocation assess the **radiocapitellar line** (see below). Draw a line through the length of the radius – it should pass through the capitellum. If it does not there is a radial head dislocation.



### Complications

- Non-union of the fractured ulna – most of these fractures are displaced and will not heal.
- Limited elbow range of motion due to dislocation.



**Galeazzi fracture-dislocation:** this is a radial fracture with associated dislocation of the radio-ulnar joint. It is thought to be caused by a fall that causes an axial load to be placed on a hyperpronated forearm.

### **Complications**

- Non-union of the fractured radius – most are displaced.
- Limitation of pronation/supination.
- Anterior interosseous nerve palsy (division of median nerve) leading to weakness of flexor pollicis longus (thumb flexor), pronator quadratus (pronation) and radial half of flexor digitorum profundus (wrist/finger flexion).

### **Management of Monteggia or Galeazzi Fracture-Dislocations**

Provide analgesia and elevate the limb. Apply a temporary above elbow backslab & refer to orthopaedics for open reduction and internal fixation.