

In each issue, JUCM will challenge your diagnostic acumen with a glimpse of x-rays, electrocardiograms, and photographs of dermatologic conditions that real urgent care patients have presented with.

If you would like to submit a case for consideration, please e-mail the relevant materials and presenting information to editor@jucm.com.



The patient is a 17-year-old male who fell and experienced a blow to the right knee.

On examination, you note local swelling. The patient complains of pain over the knee and is unable bear weight on the leg.

View the image taken (Figure 1) and consider what your diagnosis and next steps would be.

Resolution of the case is described on the next page.

INSIGHTS IN IMAGES: CLINICAL CHALLENGE

THE RESOLUTION



Most non-displaced tibial plateau fractures do not require surgery, but prolonged immobilization—up to three months—is often necessary. Orthopedic follow-up is mandatory, as even non-displaced fractures can displace over time.

Arthritis is a common complication, even if it appears that the articular surface is spared.

This patient was referred for orthopedic evaluation.

Acknowledgment: Case presented by Nahum Kovalski, BSc, MDCM, Terem Emergency Medical Centers, Jerusalem, Israel.

This case is one of hundreds that can be found in Terem's online X-ray Teaching File, with more being added daily. Free access to the file is available at https://www2.teremi.com/ xrayteach/. A no-cost, brief registration is required.