

VAQ 2011.1.2 (XR)

A 65 year old woman has been brought to your emergency department after being struck by a car at a pedestrian crossing. She has a painful right leg.



- a. Describe and interpret her X-rays (50%)
- b. Outline potential complications (50%)

a. Xrays show:

fracture of proximal tibia and fibula of right leg

minimal displacement

dorsal and valgus angulation of distal fragments

degenerative knee joint changes; knee joint enclosed

vascular calcification

dressings visible

midshaft tibial lucencies could be artefact, previous operative site, cortical injury

Consistent with proximal tibial / fibular fracture with direct below knee impact mechanism

b.

Potential complications

immediate

associated laceration, contusion

neurovascular injury particularly common peroneal nerve, popliteal artery

knee ligament injury (PCL, ACL, LCL, MCL)

early

compartment syndrome

operative complications – GA, MI, neurovascular injury

hospital morbidity – UTI, DVT, PE, infection

infection (wound, post-op) and complications including sepsis, death

late

degenerative knee joint

complex regional pain syndrome / reflex sympathetic dystrophy

non-union / malunion