

# Clavicle Fractures

OTA Boot Camp  
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Historically managed nonoperatively  
Not everyone did well (nonunion, malunion)

What we know:

- 75% heal without surgery
- 25% get nonunion (of these only 2/3 require surgery)
- Functional results worse with nonunion

Higher risk of nonunion:

- Age >30
- Displacement
- Comminution
- Female gender

With surgery:

- Earlier return to function
- Avoid malunion
- Only 2% nonunion
- 17% require hardware removal (might avoid with smaller implants)

Displacement best determined on upright x-ray

Can plate superior or anteroinferior  
Recent interest in smaller implants (one superior and one anterointerior)  
Anterior chest wall numbness unless supraclavicular nerves protected

**Must have informed discussion with your patient!**