

## Musculoskeletal case 20. Presentation

A 32-year-old man was admitted with neck pain and stiffness and bilateral forearm pain after a motor vehicle crash. He had been a front-seat passenger in a car that had skidded off the road and struck a tree. He was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the car for about

6 m. He had swelling and deformity of both distal forearms. Also, he had marked tenderness of his upper neck. There was no evidence of any neurologic injury. Plain radiographs (not shown) confirmed bilateral fractures of the distal forearms. Plain radiographs of the cervical spine were

obtained to evaluate any cervical injury: Fig. 1 is a lateral view and Fig. 2 is the open-mouth view to visualize the C1–C2 junction.

What is your diagnosis?

For the answer and a discussion see [page 65](#).



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

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