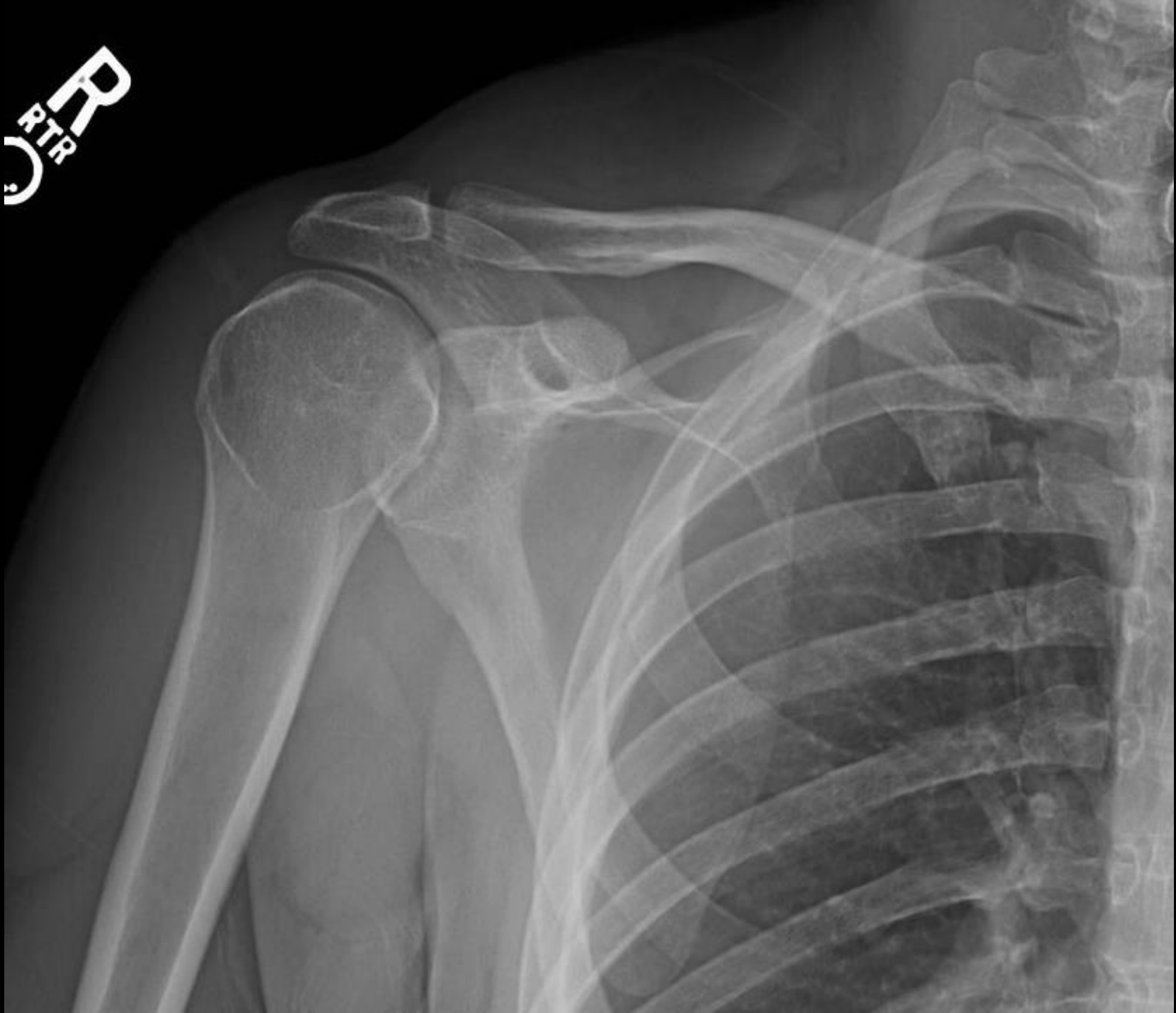
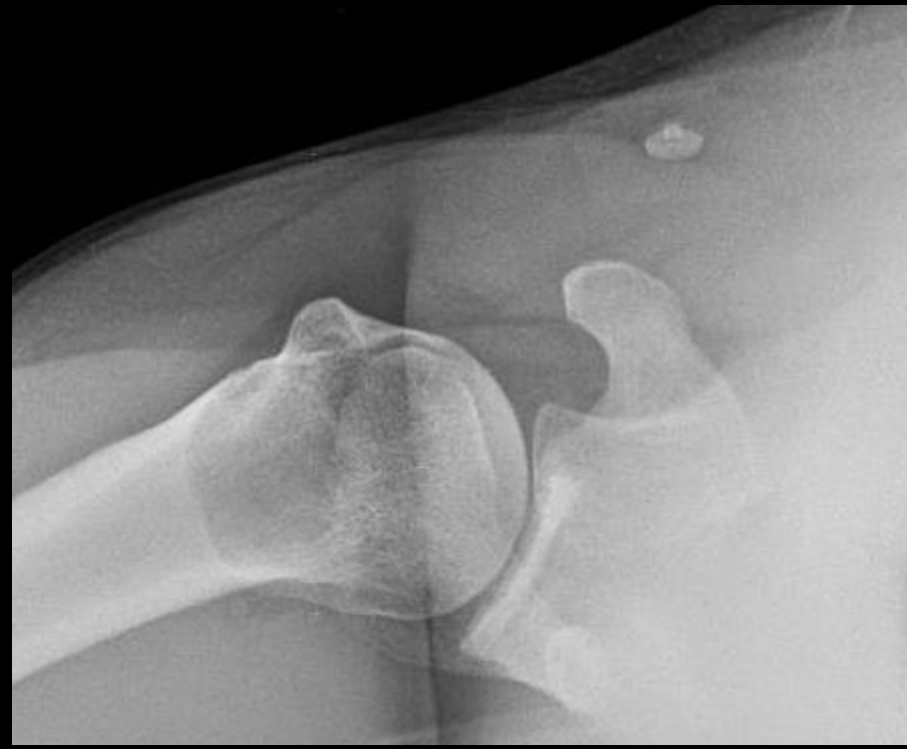


Trauma, shoulder pain

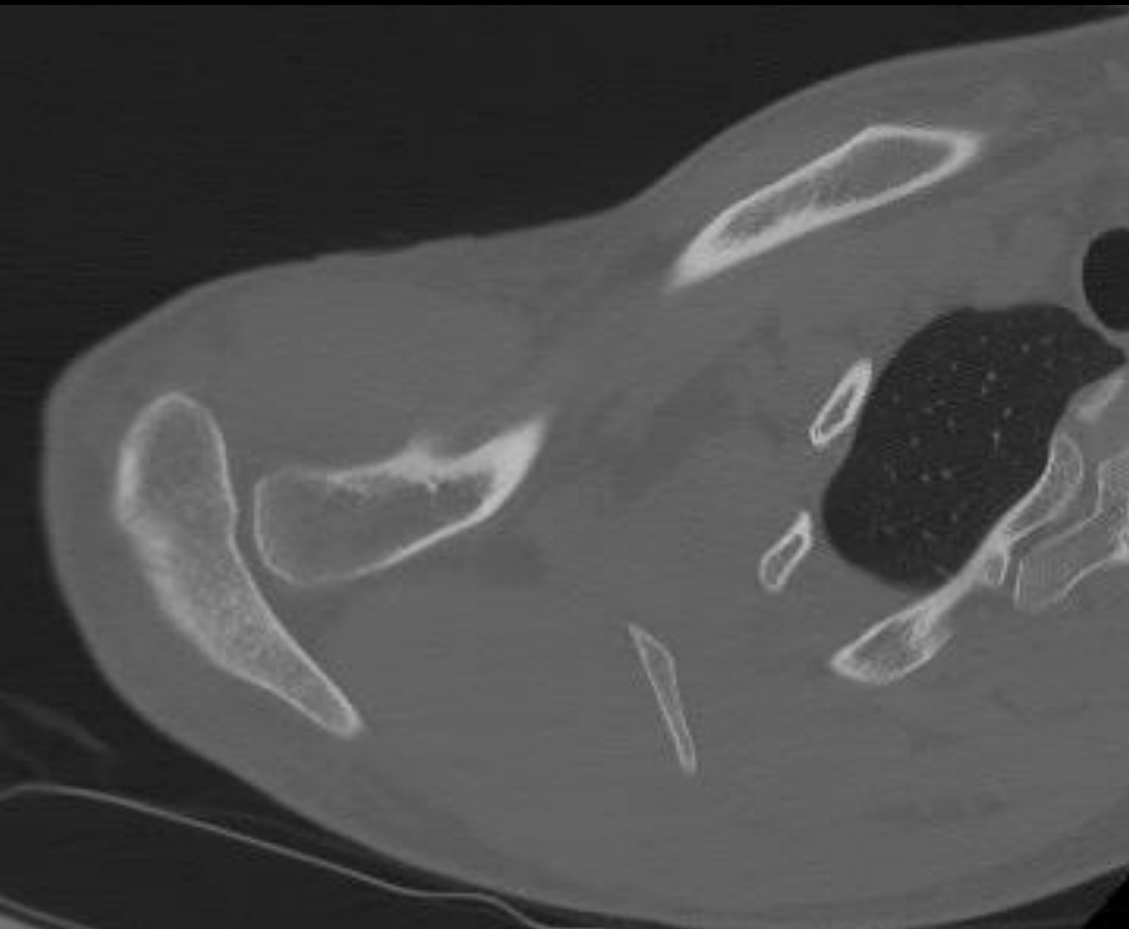
R  
RTR







Unable to perform exam with weights



# AC Joint Injury

- **Background**

- Young active population

- 9% of all shoulder girdle injuries

- 8% of all joint dislocations throughout the body

- 5 to 1 male to female predominance

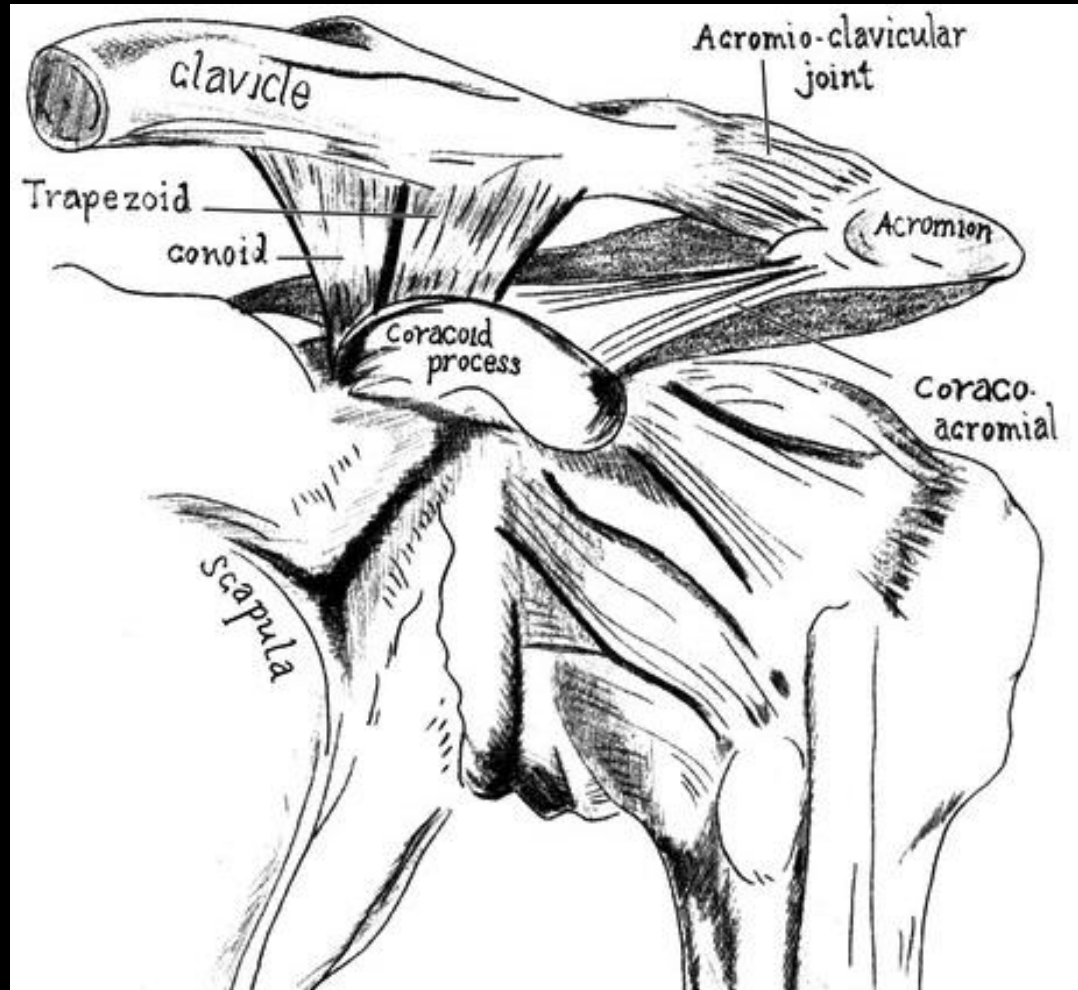
# AC Joint Injury

- **Mechanism**

- Most commonly direct blow to scapula with shoulder adducted
- Scapula pushed downward and forward with respect to the clavicle
- Tensile failure of AC ligament, CC ligament, and then trapezius, usually in this order



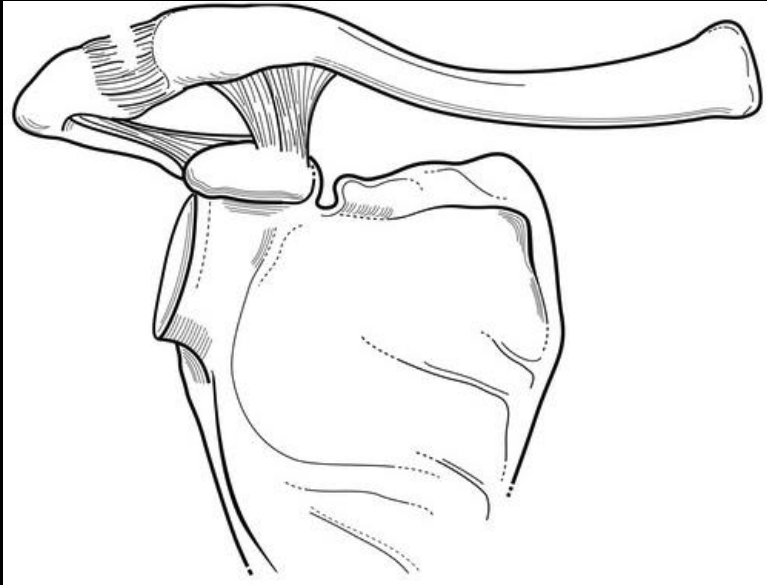
# AC Joint Injury



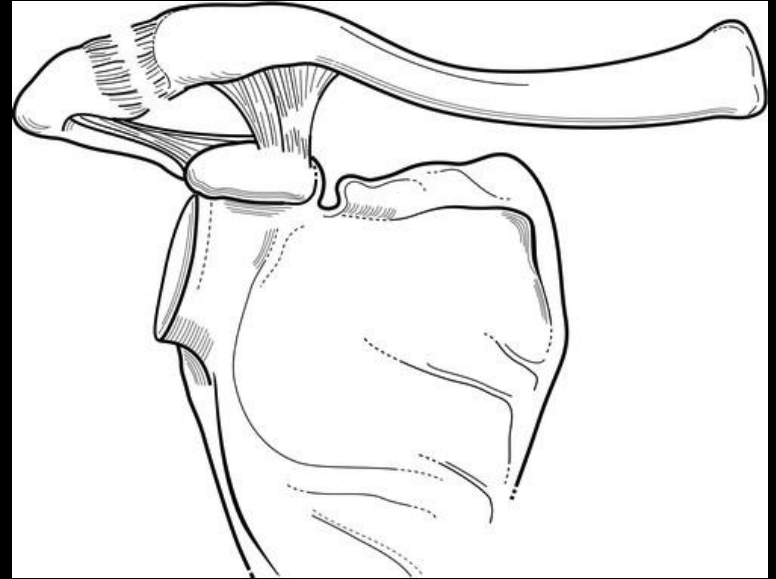
Alyas F, Curtis M, Speed C, Saifuddin A, Connell D. MR imaging appearances of acromioclavicular joint dislocation. Radiographics 2008; 28:463-479



# AC Joint Injury

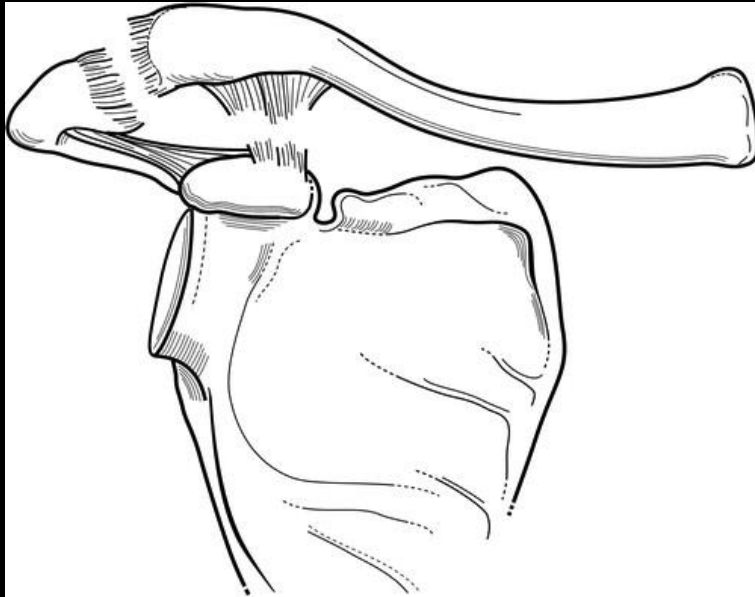


**Grade 1**  
Incomplete tear of Superior  
AC Ligament



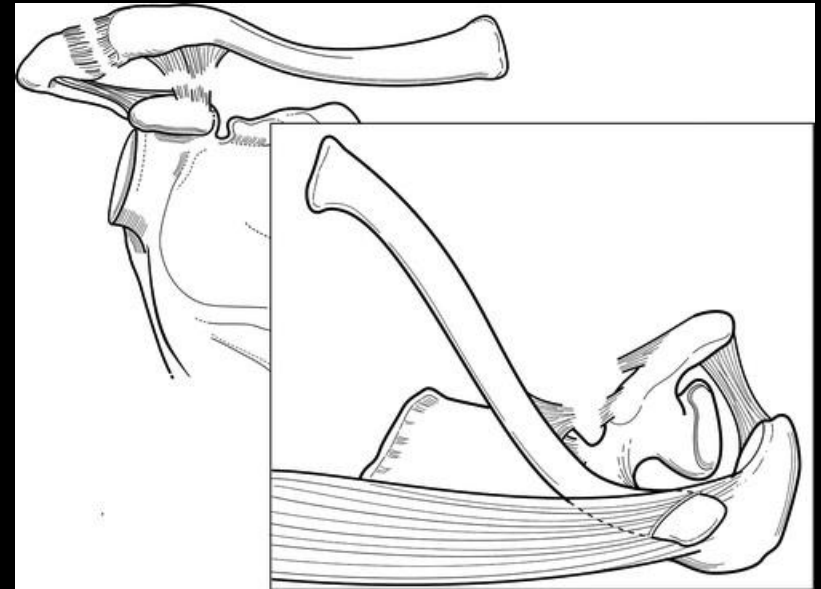
**Grade 2**  
Complete tear of AC Ligament  
Low grade sprain CC Ligaments

# AC Joint Injury



## Grade 3

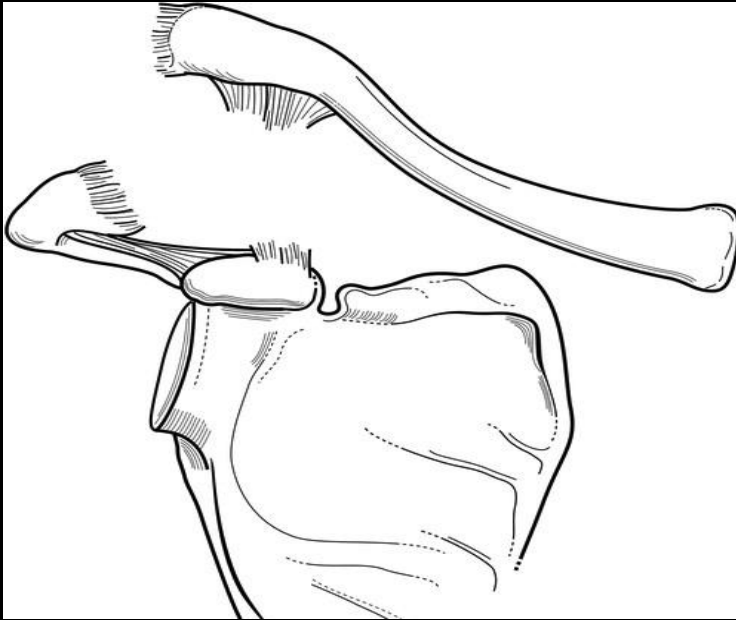
Complete tear of AC and  
CC ligaments



## Grade 4

Complete tear of AC and  
CC ligaments with posterior  
displacement of clavicle

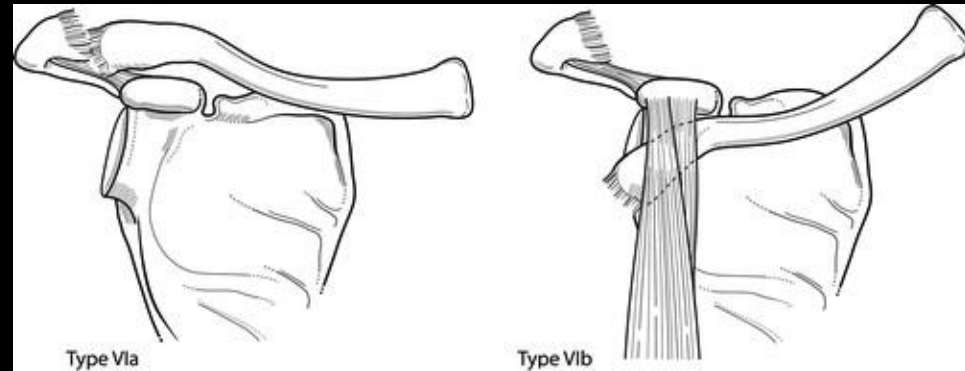
# AC Joint Injury



## Grade 5

Complete tear of AC and  
CC ligaments

More superior displacement, tearing  
of trapezius/deltoid

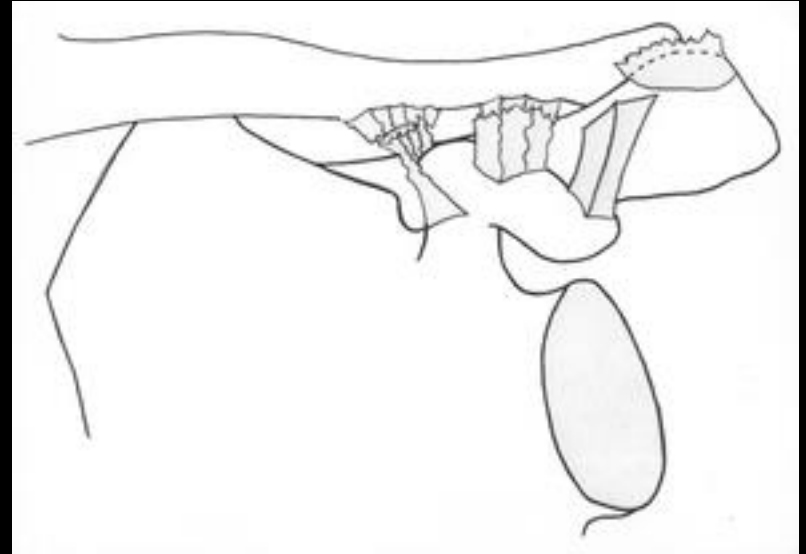


## Grade 6

Inferior displacement with tearing of  
AC ligament

# AC Joint Injury

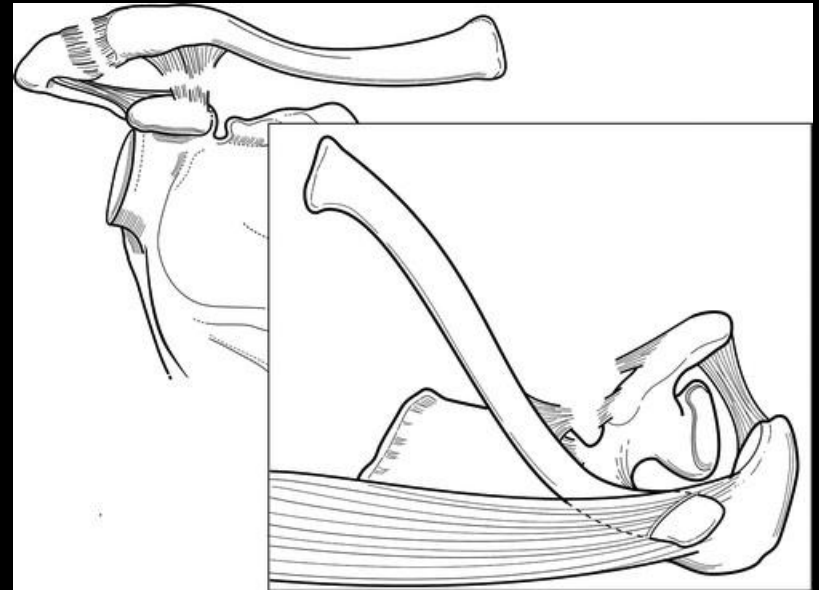
- **Grade 4 injury**
  - Also called anterior dislocation of the scapula
  - Often no vertical displacement on frontal radiograph
  - **Axillary best view**



Antonio GE, Cho JH, Chung CB, Trudell DJ, Resnick D. Pictorial essay. MR imaging appearance and classification of acromioclavicular joint injury. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2003; 180:1103-1110

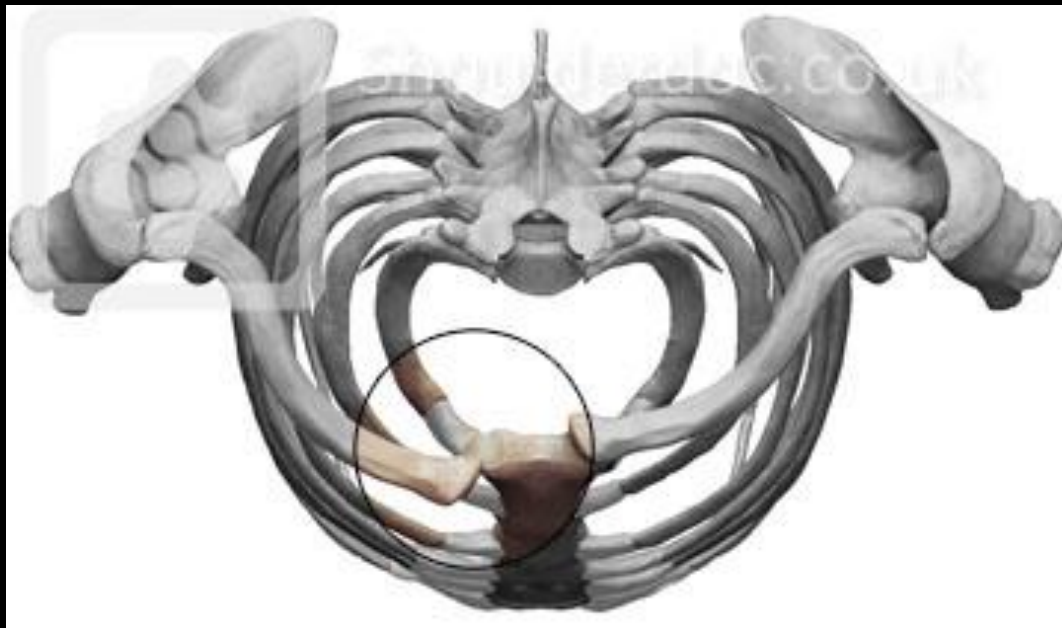
# AC Joint Injury

- **Grade 4 injury**
  - “Buttonholing” can occur with clavicle piercing the trapezius muscle



# AC Joint Injury

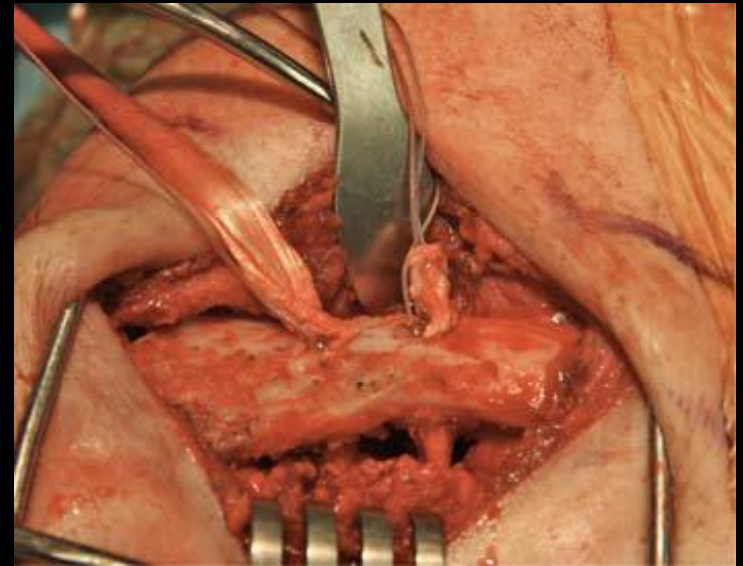
- **Grade 4 injury**
  - Higher association with anterior dislocation of sternoclavicular joint



# AC Joint Injury

## – Treatment

- Most grade 4 require surgery
- Grade 1-2 non surgical
- Grade 3 controversial (trend to no surgery)



# References

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1. Antonio GE, Cho JH, Chung CB, Trudell DJ, Resnick D. Pictorial essay. MR imaging appearance and classification of acromioclavicular joint injury. *AJR Am J Roentgenol* 2003; 180:1103-1110
2. Alyas F, Curtis M, Speed C, Saifuddin A, Connell D. MR imaging appearances of acromioclavicular joint dislocation. *Radiographics* 2008; 28:463-479
3. Rios CG, Mazzocca AD. Acromioclavicular joint problems in athletes and new methods of management. *Clin Sports Med* 2008; 27:763-788
4. Mazzocca AD, Arciero RA, Bicos J. Evaluation and treatment of acromioclavicular joint injuries. *Am J Sports Med* 2007; 35:316-329
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6. Rockwood CA, Young DC. Disorders of the acromioclavicular joint. In: Rockwood CA, Matsen F III, eds. *The shoulder*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1990:446